

**FALL MOVIES:** Netflix unleashing wave of original films **Page 24**

**BOOKS:** Rounding up fall's must-reads **Page 38**

**TV:** 'Magnum P.I.' reboot among AFN offerings **Page 39**

EUROPE  
& PACIFIC  
**WEEKEND**  
EDITION



**NFL**  
'Helmet rule' among hot topics at start of 2018 season  
**Back page**

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 77, No. 103 ©SS 2018 **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

平成30年9月7日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木2丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

**\$1.00**



CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

**Air Force Capt. Robert Erskine inspects a half-slice of a Meal, Ready to Eat pepperoni pizza during a taste test of the new military ration in Kabul, Afghanistan, on July 4.**

## Special delivery

### Afghanistan-deployed troops taste pizza MRE for the 1st time

By **CHAD GARLAND**  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — It took more than 30 minutes to arrive, but the pizza was coming from Massachusetts, via Ramstein Air Base in Germany and Bagram Air Field, to the Afghan capital.

Plus, unlike Domino's, it's got a three-year shelf life.

In anticipation of the long-awaited rollout of the Meal, Ready to Eat pepperoni pizza, Stars and Stripes flew several of the military ration's main pizza entrees into Af-

Watch troops try the pizza MRE for the first time at [stripes.com/go/pizza](https://www.stripes.com/go/pizza)



ghanistan for taste tests with the troops.

"It's not delivery, it's MRE," Air Force Capt. Robert Erskine said before digging into a slice.

The feedback was generally positive — some said it was a contender for a new favorite menu item. It's designed to be eaten cold or hot, but those who tried it cold said it would be better heated. Some said it was a bit too bready or needed the added flavor of cheese spread, which will come with the full MRE.

**SEE DELIVERY ON PAGE 2**



SUSAN WALSH/AP

**President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" when they met on June 12 in Singapore.**

## Embattled Trump thanks North Korea's Kim for praise

By **KIM GAMEL**  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he and Kim Jong Un will "get it done together" after the North Korean leader reaffirmed his commitment to a nuclear-free peninsula.

The tweet came hours after Kim was quoted as saying he still has faith in Trump despite recent setbacks that have caused nuclear talks to deadlock nearly three months after the two leaders met in Singapore.

However, Kim demanded reciprocal goodwill measures and called for a declaration to formally end the Korean War, offering assurances that it would not be linked to the withdrawal of U.S. troops, an envoy said.

"Chairman Kim stressed that he has never spoken negatively about President Trump to his staff or anyone," South Korean President Moon Jae-in's national security adviser, Chung Eui-yong, told reporters Thursday, a day after meeting with Kim in Pyongyang.

The praise was welcomed by Trump, who is facing political controversies at home.

"Kim Jong Un of North Korea proclaims 'unwavering faith in President Trump.' Thank you to Chairman Kim. We will get it done together!" Trump tweeted.

**SEE TRUMP ON PAGE 5**

# MILITARY

## Delivery: Long-awaited pizza MRE posed challenge for developers

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Erskine, from Yakima, Wash., said he wouldn't order it if it was on the room service menu. Partial to thin crust, Erskine said he liked it better once he sliced off the bottom two-thirds of bread.

Since the 1980s, soldiers have been asking for a pizza MRE, according to the Army. In 2012, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass., began the tricky task of developing a slice-in-a-pouch that would be shelf-stable for 36 months.

"It's a very difficult food to create to be able to store for a long time at room temperature," said Anastacia Marx de Salcedo, the author of "Combat-Ready Kitchen: How the U.S. Military Shapes the Way You Eat."

Marx de Salcedo keeps up with military food innovation and traces the way the technology and foods eventually reach the public. McDonald's McBib, for example, traces its lineage to military food developments.

Recent military advances in chemical-free food preservation may lead to healthier processed foods, she said, such as "a TV dinner that you can throw into a closet" instead of a freezer.

It's too soon to say whether the MRE pizza will one day reach the public, but the techniques that make it possible may.

Part of the difficulty for the pizza developers was creating a barrier between the various pizza components — cheese, sauce, crust and toppings. Basil and tomato films were used to create "very, very thin layers between each ingredient," Marx de Salcedo said.

The components can be made



shelf-stable on their own, but "the real trick" is to get them "inside a pouch, happily together," Jeremy Whitsitt, deputy director of the Defense Department's Com-

bat Feeding Directorate, said in a statement.

The pizzas were field-tested beginning in 2014. They were delayed in reaching the troops

**Navy Lt. Tom Perez prepares and samples the new pizza ration during a taste test in Kabul, Afghanistan, on July 4.**

PHOTOS BY CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

by production hiccups last year, but Whitsitt said they will hit the pipeline next year at the latest.

In addition to a square of pizza, the full MRE will contain cheese spread with jalapenos, Italian breadsticks, cherry/blueberry cobbler, cookies and chocolate protein powder.

The full MRE wasn't available this summer for the taste test, but the Combat Feeding Directorate shipped a few of the pizzas by themselves.

"You can't fully appreciate the

value of an MRE unless you are cold, wet, tired and hungry — sitting in the dark and the rain on a mountain in Afghanistan," said David A. Accetta, spokesman for the Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center and a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "That's when the MRE, and the ability to have a hot meal anywhere, provides that touch of home and comfort."

To test this theory, Stars and Stripes hand-delivered the pizzas to Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Akin at Ramstein, who put them on a flight to Bagram. From there, they made it to our reporter in Kabul.

Meanwhile, Stars and Stripes cobbled together some cheese spread — with and without jalapeno — MRE heaters and other condiments from near-expired MREs that were being sold on Kabul's black market.

Seven U.S. servicemembers and two Italian soldiers tried them at the NATO mission's headquarters in Kabul. Not exactly cold, wet and starving on a mountain, but still in harm's way.

The consensus among the volunteers was that it tasted somewhat like day-old pizza, which many said was not a bad feat.

Hailing from Racine, Wis., the "land of cheese," Chaplain (Col.) Kenneth Sorenson said he even liked the cheese.

The Italians seemed to like it — at least as a field ration.

"Talking into consideration where I'm going to eat that kind of pizza, yes, it's good, in the middle of the s---," said Maj. Gianluca Cinque, a member of Italy's Alpini mountain warfare troops. "We just need a beer inside."

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## TODAY

### IN STRIPES

**American Roundup** ..... 18  
**Business** ..... 20  
**Comics, Crossword** 42, 46-47  
**Faces** ..... 43  
**Opinion** ..... 44-45  
**Sports** ..... 52-64  
**Weather** ..... 20  
**Weekend** ..... 21-42

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,  
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

#### ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

### MIDDLE EAST

#### ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

+49 (0) 631-3615-9013

### PACIFIC

#### ADVERTISING

ICHIRO  
KATAYANAGI

CustomerHelp@Stripes.com

+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

## PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the **European and Pacific** editions of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at [www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## MILITARY



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

A team from the destroyer USS Jason Dunham inspects a dhow recently while conducting maritime security operations.

## Navy: 2,500 rifles seized in Gulf

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The U.S. Navy says a recent arms seizure from small ships near war-torn Yemen netted over 2,500 Kalashnikov assault rifles. The Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet gave the updated total in a

statement Wednesday. It boarded the skiff and the dhow, a traditional ship in the Persian Gulf, during a routine check in the Gulf of Aden on Aug. 28.

The Navy added, "The origin and intended destination of the skiff have not yet been determined."

In early 2016, U.S.-allied warships in the region stopped three dhows carrying thousands of Kalashnikov assault rifles as well as sniper rifles, machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, anti-tank missiles and other weapons believed bound for Yemen from Iran.

## Helo makes emergency landing off Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — No injuries were reported after a U.S. military helicopter made an emergency landing Wednesday on an island off Okinawa's coast, Marine Corps and Japanese officials said.

The Marines told Japanese officials that a UH-1Y Venom from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing made a "precautionary landing" about 3:45 p.m. on Kume Island after a warning light came on, said Okinawa Defense Bureau spokesman Masashi Katsuren and Kumejima town hall official Yuhka Nakasone.

The aircraft landed in a grass field next to a runway at Kume-

jima Airport, Nakasone said.

There were no reports of damage or injuries, including to the Venom's five crewmembers, Katsuren and Nakasone said.

"The aircraft systems performed as designed and notified the pilot of the issue," III Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman Capt. Eric Flanagan said in an emailed statement. "The aircrew performed as trained and chose the safest option, landing the aircraft in accordance with standard procedures ..."

"We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused while our forces trained to support the U.S.-Japan security alliance."

The Venom's crew performed a safety check before taking off again about 5:15 p.m., Nakasone

said.

The aircraft flew first to Kadena Air Base, arriving around 5:43 p.m., and then to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, where it arrived at approximately 6:40 p.m., Katsuren said.

The aircraft was conducting routine training at the time of the incident, Flanagan said.

A pair of Ryukyu Air Commuter flights were delayed more than an hour and a half due to the incident, affecting 94 passengers, the Okinawa Times newspaper reported.

Military aircraft safety is a grave concern among locals on Okinawa due to past deadly mishaps.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com

## Soldier killed in Italy motorcycle accident ID'd

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The soldier killed Tuesday in a motorcycle accident has been identified as Sgt. Nathan Teregeyo.

Teregeyo, 25, lost control of his motorcycle on a curve on Strada Provinciale 349, a winding road leading up to Asiago in the foothills of the Alps, and struck a brick wall next to an apartment

complex, officials said. He died at the scene.

Teregeyo had reported duty with the 173rd Infantry Brigade in December 2014, U.S. Garrison Italy officials said. He was attached to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne). The serpentine route, also known as the Strada del Cost, with hairpin curves and panoramic views of the Astico Val-

ley, has been the site of dozens of fatalities over the years, many of them motorcyclists, according to local media.

Teregeyo was riding a Suzuki GSX-R600, according to local media, along with a fellow soldier on a second motorcycle, when he lost control of the bike about 4 p.m.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com  
Twitter:@montgomerynancy

# Lawmakers and experts: NATO's value substantial

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — NATO has proven its substantial value and remains a critical investment for U.S. national security, senators and experts said Wednesday during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

The comments were a rebuke to President Donald Trump's stance that NATO and its partner nations have fallen short of their commitments.

In a NATO summit meeting in July, Trump issued a series of insults about the alliance and its members, and later told Fox News that the nation of Montenegro, which has about 630,000 residents, could trigger World War III.

"In a world where various forces are eroding democracy and the rules-based international order, it is a core interest of the United States to

bolster and strengthen alliances like NATO, a guarantor and the cornerstone of peace for Americans in the trans-Atlantic region for 70 years," Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., said during the hearing. "Unfortunately, President Donald Trump clearly takes a different view. He has questioned the value of the alliance to the United States and said that NATO was 'helping Europe more than it was helping us.'"

The hearing was the third for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a series examining growing threats from Russia, with the focus Wednesday on NATO's value.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the committee, said he hoped the hearing would make clear NATO's critical value to the United States and the committee's support for NATO. Corker called the July NATO summit a "low point" following Trump's criticism of the alliance.

NATO has long remained a deterrent against escalating conflicts, especially ones involving Russia, said Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonprofit Washington think tank.

NATO has proven itself to have value and substantial value at that," Haass told the committee. "The Cold War stayed cold until it ended on terms even optimists had trouble envisioning. There's been no armed Russian aggression against NATO member."

It is also essential that a con-

cern over burden sharing not blind the United States to its benefit sharing, as America supports NATO not as a favor to Europe but as a favor to itself, Haass argued. The United States can't afford the support it receives from NATO on its own, he added.

Corker said he supports every NATO nation meeting its 2 percent spending requirement on defense, but he said weakening the alliance is not in the best interest of the United States. NATO is especially critical now with growing aggression from Russia "not seen since the Cold War," Corker said.

"It's our vital alliance, and it's still relevant and the key factor in trying to contain Russian power and we've seen that emerge ... over the last eight years," said Nicholas Burns, a former U.S. permanent representative to NATO and undersecretary of state for political affairs. "I also think of NATO allies as indispensable force multipliers for ... American power."

By questioning NATO alliance, purposely using false information to turn public opinion against the alliance, and casting doubt on Article 5, the NATO directive that an attack on one partner nation is an attack on the alliance, it invites rivals question it and undoubtedly weakens NATO, Corker said.

"And, of course, this, in turn, plays right into the hands of (Russian President) Vladimir Putin," he said.

Since 1949, NATO has been a vital building block of American security, Corker added. It has linked the United States with Europe and Canada through mutual defense, shared interests and basic values, he said.

"Our partners stood ready during the height of the Cold War and stood with the United States following the Sept. 11 attacks on our nation — the only time in the 69-year existence of the alliance that Article 5 has been invoked," Corker said. "We spend less than one percent of our overall defense budget on NATO itself."

"And even if we were to add up all of the costs associated with European security, our forward presence, missile defense, and security assistance, it totals just 5 percent of our defense spending. And while it is true that not all NATO allies are meeting their commitments, it's not reason to bash it."

NATO is a very good investment for U.S. national security, he said.

"I think (Defense) Secretary (Jim) Mattis understands that. I think Secretary (of State Mike) Pompeo understands that. And I think many others within the administration understand the same," Corker said.

grisales.claudia@stripes.com  
Twitter:@cgrisales



Menendez



## NATION

# Sen. Inhofe takes lead of armed services panel

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Jim Inhofe, a longtime Republican senator from Oklahoma, will take over as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Inhofe, 83, has been acting chairman of the committee, which has oversight of military issues, since Sen. John McCain was forced to leave Capitol Hill in December 2017 due to illness. The Arizona Republican died Aug. 25 at the age of 81 after a 13-month battle with brain cancer.

“Senator Inhofe filled in for Sen. McCain during a difficult year,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Wednesday from the floor of the upper chamber. “He rose to the occasion and helped lead the committee in passing crucial legislation that honored the example of his predecessor and the volunteers who defend our nation.”

Though McCain was not physically present during Inhofe’s tenure as acting chairman, the two senators did coordinate at times. From his Arizona home, McCain issued statements and co-sponsored legislation in his final months as a 31-year senator.

Inhofe, for example, helped

shepherd through the \$715 billion National Defense Authorization Act, which sets policy and spending for the Defense Department.

On Wednesday, the Senate Armed Services Committee officially chose Inhofe to become the permanent chairman for the panel. Inhofe said he was looking forward to working with his colleagues on the committee to ensure the military is ready and able to defend the country against growing threats around the world.

“I am deeply honored that my colleagues have selected me to lead the Armed Services Committee,” said Inhofe, who has served on the panel since 1995. “America is facing new and unprecedented threats that are different from anything we’ve seen before. As chairman, it will be my priority to address these threats while maintaining a staunch commitment to servicemembers and their families, as well as continue the bipartisan tradition of rigorous accountability and oversight



Inhofe

of the Defense Department.”

McCain’s seat in the Senate also was filled this week, and could remain part of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

On Tuesday, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey appointed longtime McCain friend and former Sen. Jon Kyl to take over the Senate seat at least for the coming months. Kyl, who served as a congressional lawmaker from Arizona from 1987 to 2013, said he would not run for election to the seat. He was sworn into the Senate on Wednesday.

McCain was elected in 2016 to a six-year term, which must be filled by appointment at least until a special election is held for the seat in 2020.

McConnell said Wednesday that Inhofe has the right experience to lead the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Inhofe “possesses rich experience on the committee, including decades of work on behalf of American servicemembers, as well as his own military service,” McConnell said. “So our congratulations and our thanks are with Sen. Inhofe.”

Based on Armed Services Committee hearings in recent months, the move likely could bring a dramatic shift from McCain’s pas-

sionate and energetic leadership, which sometimes turned contentious when he questioned Pentagon officials.

McCain’s quick temper and frustration with military leaders, exhibited in his probe into the deaths of 17 sailors in two fatal Navy ship crashes last year and in his grilling of Pentagon nominees or leaders, was a frequent staple of committee hearings.

James Mountain Inhofe, on the other hand, is more soft-spoken and is not known to question witnesses relentlessly during hearings to the degree that was commonplace for McCain.

He has a more conservative record than McCain, denying global warming as a “hoax” and pushing against same-sex marriages.

For example, in 2012, Inhofe authored a book titled “The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future.”

That same year, he co-sponsored legislation to prohibit same-sex marriages on military bases. In 2015, Inhofe said he was disappointed by a Supreme Court decision requiring all states to recognize same-sex marriage.

“My position on this issue is clear and has not changed,” Inhofe said in a statement at the time.

Inhofe worked as a businessman for about 30 years before becoming the mayor of Tulsa in 1978 and then a congressional lawmaker in 1987. Inhofe, who served in the Army for two years from 1956 to 1958, joined the Senate in 1994.

Inhofe also is known to speak highly of President Donald Trump, while McCain and Trump were well-known adversaries. Trump often mocked McCain, saying the Arizona senator, who spent five years in a North Vietnam prison, was not a war hero.

The friction continued after McCain’s death when the White House bucked tradition and raised its flag from half-staff to full-staff within two days of McCain’s death. After controversy ensued, the flag was lowered to half-staff again until after the senator’s burial, which is tradition.

Inhofe said McCain was partially to blame for the flag dispute.

“I think that John McCain was partially to blame for that because he is very outspoken,” Inhofe said during a hallway interview with reporters on Capitol Hill. “He disagreed with the president in certain areas and wasn’t too courteous about it.”

grisales.claudia@stripes.com  
Twitter: @cgrisales

## AFRICOM backer takes over key Senate committee amid cutback talk

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Oklahoma Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe is known as a GOP campaign man, but the new head of the Senate Armed Services Committee had a mini-maverick moment back in 2011, and it was all about Africa.

Inhofe took the Senate floor to chastise influential conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh over comments about an obscure African warlord. At the time, President Barack Obama ordered 100 U.S. troops into central Africa to help hunt for Joseph Kony, a self-proclaimed messiah heading a small band of fighters known as the Lord’s Resistance Army.

Limbaugh, who was misinformed about the nature of the militant group, complained on air that Obama was going after a Christian group that kills Muslims. Inhofe said “my good friend Rush Limbaugh” was all wrong about the LRA.

On Wednesday, Inhofe, 83, was named head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, taking over for Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who died Aug. 25 after a battle with brain cancer. Inhofe’s leadership of the committee is expected to be a departure from McCain’s tenure, which was marked by a willingness to go against the Republican grain and to challenge military leaders with tough questions during Senate hearings.

Inhofe’s questioning of military leaders during Senate hearings over the years generally has been moderate, with little of the

McCain-style pushback. But an area in which Inhofe has been willing to go his own way is on issues related to Africa and the military’s role there.

“It has disturbed me quite a bit over the years that not many people care about Africa,” Inhofe said from the Senate floor in 2011 as he took on Limbaugh, defending Obama’s decision to seek troops to help search for Kony’s group.

In the years since, Inhofe has remained fixated on Africa, even as the Trump administration has looked to shift resources away from the continent. In the months ahead, the U.S. military mission in Africa is likely to face further scrutiny as the Pentagon considers reducing the number of troops there.

The New York Times has reported that the Pentagon is now looking at removing nearly all special operations forces from Niger, where four U.S. troops were killed in a clash in October. That’s part of a broader reorganization aimed at shifting Africa-focused resources elsewhere. In general, the Pentagon is seeking to focus more on competition and countering Russia and China.

Overall, Inhofe — a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump — toes the Republican line. A 2017, GovTrack legislative report card rated him as the Senate’s most conservative member.

But Africa could emerge as a rare point of contention with administration officials and military brass. While the Pentagon contemplates downsizing in Af-

rica, Inhofe wants to build up.

A month after the October ambush in Niger — when some lawmakers were expressing shock that the U.S. had a significant number of troops in that country — Inhofe said the deaths revealed U.S. Africa Command’s fundamental problems.

“The four American deaths in Niger alone underscore weaknesses that must be addressed at AFRICOM. It is the only combatant command without dedicated troop resources,” Inhofe wrote in a November op-ed in The Wall Street Journal. “AFRICOM’s headquarters are in Germany, and the U.S. has just one base on the entire continent, in Djibouti, limiting its ability to respond to crises in a timely manner.”

AFRICOM’s requests for additional resources over the years have been “repeatedly denied,” he said, adding that he would work with Trump to get the command what it needed. “AFRICOM is vital to America’s national security, which is why legislators must make it a priority.”

Inhofe was one of AFRICOM’s original boosters, playing a key role in its establishment a decade ago.

In 2011, Inhofe also was a key backer of deploying U.S. special operations troops to Central Africa to work with indigenous units to hunt down the Lord’s Resistance Army. Obama’s decision to send advisory forces was the result of the Lord’s Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act, which Inhofe sponsored.

The mission went on for years

and eventually became something of an albatross for McCain. “It’s over 100 million every year,” AFRICOM head Gen. David Rodriguez said shortly before retiring in 2016.

AFRICOM formally ended the LRA operation in 2017. Kony remains on the loose, but his militant group has been reduced to irrelevance.

In continuing to push for a deeper U.S. commitment to Africa, Inhofe sees AFRICOM’s role as key.

“Trump needs to bring his ‘America First’ approach to Africa,” Inhofe wrote in a January USA Today op-ed. “He needs to set aside the old, outdated mindset of the State Department and do what no other president has ever done — advance American interests by treating African na-

tions as partners.”

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

**MILITARY DISCOUNTS**  
For all Military ID card holders and their family members:

Atlanta	532 €
Charlotte	466 €
Dallas	514 €
Las Vegas	510 €
Tampa	479 €

Need help? Call us!

**0621-72920**

**www.abctravel.de**

Flights from May 16 to June 17, 2018 and from Aug. 27 to Oct. 28, 2018. RT from Germany. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military Discount with ABC Travel Service e.K., Gorchowstr. 9, 68389 Mannheim

Partner of **DER PART**

www.marriagebyproxy.com

Get Legally Married  
While Deployed

- USA Marriage Certificate
- Recognized by Military
- No Travel Required
- Excellent Personalized Service
- Same Sex Marriages
- Dual and Single Military
- Marriage To A Foreign National

Contact Sam or Jeff

Toll Free: 877-482-2406

From Overseas: 001-610-644-2630

sam@marriagebyproxy.com



## PACIFIC

# Trump: S. Korean official says North's Kim has taken steps for denuclearization

## FROM FRONT PAGE

South Korea, meanwhile, announced that Moon will meet with Kim on Sept. 18-20 in Pyongyang, North Korea, for their third summit this year.

The developments raised hopes for a revival of talks that began earlier this year, reversing months of tensions that spiked as the North test-fired several missiles and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

The Trump administration likely would seek more specific measures such as a declaration of nuclear-related facilities, said Scott Snyder, the director of the U.S.-Korea policy program at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"There is evidence of progress," he said in a telephone interview. "The question is whether there's enough in Chung Eui-yong's statement to entice the U.S. back into direct talks."

## Troubled talks

Kim expressed hope for ending decades of hostilities "and realizing denuclearization by improving the North Korean-U.S. relationship within Trump's first term," Chung said, adding that Kim had asked him to deliver his message to Washington.

"Chairman Kim Jong Un has made it clear several times that

he is firmly committed to denuclearization and expressed frustration over skepticism in the international community over his commitment," Chung said.

"He said he has pre-emptively taken steps necessary for denuclearization and wants to see these goodwill measures being met with goodwill measures," Chung added.

Kim also reaffirmed his commitment to denuclearization in a message reported by the state-run Korean Central News Agency earlier Thursday. The leader said it was "his will to completely remove the danger of armed conflict and horror of war from the Korean Peninsula and turn it into the cradle of peace without nuclear weapons and free from nuclear threat," according to KCNA.

Efforts to declare a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which concluded with an armistice after the parties failed to agree on a peace treaty, have emerged as a key issue.

Kim and Moon agreed to work toward "declaring an end to the war and establishing a permanent and solid peace regime," during their first summit on April 27. Trump initially suggested he was open to the idea, tweeting "KOREAN WAR TO END!" that same day.

But his administration has re-

sisted, saying North Korea should give up its nuclear weapons first.

Critics say the declaration, although largely symbolic, would be seen as a prelude to a peace treaty and could strengthen arguments for reducing the U.S. military presence on the peninsula, something Trump himself has expressed a desire to do.

## Elusive peace

Some 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea, a legacy of the decades-old alliance that was forged in the war. The North and communist ally China have long sought to eject the Americans from the region.

But Kim told the South Korean envoys that "the end-of-war declaration has nothing to do with weakening the South Korean-U.S. alliance or the withdrawal of the U.S. forces in the South," Chung said.

North Korea's official newspaper reiterated the declaration demand. "The U.S. should no longer stick to a position of attaining denuclearization before signing a peace treaty," Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary.

"It's easy to be skeptical," said Doyoon Kim, an analyst with the Center for a New American Security.

She said the North Koreans

could try to use a declaration as a propaganda victory and could push for an early peace treaty, which could undermine the rationale for the U.S. presence.

"If what Kim Jong Un said is true, then North Korea should have no problem agreeing to an end-of-war declaration that explicitly states that there is no change to the armistice in any way, shape or form," she said.

The North has suspended nuclear and missile tests, has blown up its main nuclear testing complex and reportedly has begun dismantling a major missile launch site, but critics say those steps may be reversible and the communist state reportedly has continued nuclear activity.

Signaling increasing frustration, Trump canceled a planned trip to the North by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last month due to what he called insufficient progress nearly three months after an unprecedented U.S.-North Korean summit in Singapore.

Talks reportedly have stalled over Washington's demands for an inventory of the North's weapons and a timeline, while the North seeks a phased approach that includes rewards for steps taken.

Chung did not outline any new measures but said Kim vowed that the work on dismantling the engine-test site meant "a com-

plete suspension of future long-range ballistic missile tests."

The two Koreas will hold talks next week to prepare for the summit. Chung also announced plans to open a liaison office in the North Korean border city of Kaesong beforehand.

Moon and Kim met two previous times in the truce village of Panmunjom, which straddles the heavily fortified border, as diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons surged after tensions last year raised fears of a nuclear war.

Trump and Kim promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" when they met June 12 in Singapore for the first-ever U.S.-North Korean summit.

Pompeo said that "there is still an enormous amount of work to do," although he refused to elaborate.

"We haven't had any nuclear tests; we haven't had any missile tests, which we consider a good thing," he said Thursday during a visit to India. "But the work of convincing Chairman Kim to make the strategic shift that we've talked about for a brighter future for the people of North Korea continues."

gamel.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kingamel



# OPERATION: 24/7 Banking Access

Stay connected anytime, anywhere with our mobile app.\*

Our Members Are the Mission

**NAVY FEDERAL**  
Credit Union

ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
VETERANS

Download the app today!

Federally insured by NCUA. \*Message and data rates may apply. Visit [navyfederal.org](http://navyfederal.org) for more information. © 2018 Navy Federal NFUCU 10487 (8-18)

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Region reacts to US envoy selection

By KATHY GANNON  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The choice of Zalmay Khalilzad as a U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan has raised some hackles in the region, with many saying the veteran diplomat's tough stance on Pakistan could hinder his mission to convince a resurgent Taliban to engage in peace talks.

In the past, Khalilzad has called on the U.S. to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, saying it harbors insurgents. The Trump administration has embraced a similar position, recently suspending \$300 million in aid to Pakistan, saying it isn't doing enough to eliminate Taliban safe havens on its territory.

But even critics of Pakistan — which denies the allegations — acknowledge it is a pivotal actor in any peace process because of its close ties to the insurgent group.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Khalilzad's appointment as special adviser on reconciliation ahead of a brief visit to Pakistan on Wednesday, where he held talks for just four hours before flying onward to India.

Despite the frosty relationship, Pompeo acknowledged that the U.S. and Pakistan have shared America's longest war, which began when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan to topple the Taliban after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"We need Pakistan to seriously engage to help us get to the reconciliation we need in Afghanistan," he told reporters aboard his plane. "They have important interests, security interests in Afghanistan to make sure they get the issues at their border right, and we need their help."

But the chairman of Pakistan's Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mushahid Hussain, said the choice of Khalilzad was unwelcome news and did not bode well for U.S. attempts to end the Afghan conflict.

"Zalmay Khalilzad's appointment is a bad choice and sends a negative message to Islamabad, when Washington badly needs Pakistan's cooperation for peace and stability in Afghanistan," he



Rafiq Maqbool/AP

**Zalmay Khalilzad's stance on Pakistan has some people questioning whether his selection as special adviser on reconciliation in Afghanistan is best for the mission to bring the Taliban into peace talks.**

said. "He is known as a Pakistan-hater who has been unable to rise beyond his prejudices against Pakistan."

Khalilzad was born in Afghanistan, raised in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif and came to America as a teenage exchange student, where he discovered the merits of a very different way of life, according to his 2016 memoir. He studied at the University of Chicago.

He was appointed Washington's special envoy after the fall of the Taliban in 2001 and later as the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan. While there, Khalilzad was often seen as a kingmaker and de-facto ruler. Many Afghans blame him for cobbling together a government dominated by warlords and plagued with corruption and infighting, saying it has contributed to the Taliban's resurgence.

"The Americans are quite keen on some dialogue with the Taliban and for that they know they need Pakistan's help, but appointing Zalmay Khalilzad will not help move things forward," said Zahid Hussain, a defense analyst and the author of two books on militancy in the region.

"His biases against Pakistan are well known," he added.

For a U.S. administration that prizes loyalty, analysts said Khalilzad is a predictable choice, having ingratiated himself with Donald Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"One thing that makes him attractive to the Trump administration is that he paid his dues during the campaign, not least by overlooking the anti-Muslim rhetoric and hosting Trump at the National Interest for a foreign policy speech," said Daniel Markey, senior research professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. National Interest is a U.S.-based magazine that promotes American interests abroad.

Khalilzad was also said to have been considered for U.S. secretary of state following Trump's presidential win.

In Afghanistan, some members of smaller ethnic groups say Khalilzad favored his fellow Pashtuns when he previously served in the country. Pashtuns are the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan.

A leading rights activist for Afghanistan's minority Hazara community, Dawood Najib, said he was so worried about Khalilzad's return to Afghanistan that he launched an online petition to stop the appointment. But after a week he was barely halfway to his goal of 5,000 signatures.

"We had a bad experience when Zalmay Khalilzad was last special envoy and U.S. ambassador," said Najib. He said Khalilzad "slowly whittled away the authority of non-Pashtuns."

President Ashraf Ghani is a Pashtun, as is former president Hamid Karzai and most Taliban

insurgents.

Ghani was also sent to the United States in his youth, on a student exchange program, and he and Khalilzad later studied together at the American University of Beirut. Afghanistan's opposition accused Khalilzad of working to help Ghani win the presidential election in 2014.

Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan, also an ethnic Pashtun, has said he is ready to partner with the U.S. in peace, but not in war. Khan has consistently advocated peace talks and is opposed to the longtime U.S. strategy of using military assaults to try and force the Taliban to the table.

Khalilzad's ethnic background could give him credibility with the Taliban, who have long demanded direct talks with the United States and dismiss the Afghan government as an American puppet. The Taliban declined a request from The Associated Press for comment on Khalilzad's appointment.

"His insider perspective — including knowing most of the players — puts him in rare company," said Markey. "As the U.S. administration is itching to find a way to get talks off the ground, this skill set is in higher demand."

But Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the U.S.-based Wilson Center, said that given its close ties to the Taliban, Pakistan remains an important player in any reconciliation process.

# Attack targets Afghan forces

By AMIR SHAH  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Insurgents killed 19 security personnel in separate assaults in Afghanistan, officials said Thursday, a day after twin bombings in Kabul killed 21 people, including two local TV reporters.

Another 89 people were wounded in Wednesday's bombings, in a Shiite neighborhood of the capital. The attack bore the hallmarks of Islamic State, which has carried out a wave of bombings against minority Shiites in recent years. The Taliban denied responsibility.

Later Wednesday, suspected Taliban insurgents overran a security outpost in the northern Badghis province and then ambushed reinforcements, killing 10 soldiers, according to Jamshid Shahabi, a spokesman for the governor.

In what is being described as an insider attack, a local police official in the northern Takhar province turned his weapon on his colleagues early Thursday, killing all eight. Abdul Khali Aseer, the provincial police spokesman, says the gunman escaped.

Two journalists from Afghanistan's TOLO TV were among those killed in the Kabul bombings. Samim Farmanzar and Ramiz Ahmad were "fearless" reporters who represented what is best in the country, the station said in a posting on Twitter.

The U.S. envoy to Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, condemned the "callous attack" in Kabul and expressed "deep concern over the heavy price paid by Afghan media, with the killing of journalists in Afghanistan being among the highest in the world."

In April, nine journalists who rushed to the scene of an explosion in Kabul were killed by a second suicide bomber. A 10th journalist was killed the same day, shot in eastern Khost province.

Both the Taliban and ISIS carry out near-daily attacks in Afghanistan targeting security forces and government officials, but ISIS also regularly targets Shiites, who it views as apostates.

In the same neighborhood where the twin bombings took place, an Islamic State suicide bomber killed 35 high school graduates last month as they sat for their university entrance exams.

## Retrial in Blackwater shooting case ends in hung jury

By SPENCER S. HSU  
The Washington Post

The retrial of a former Blackwater security guard convicted of first-degree murder in 2014 resulted in a hung jury Wednesday, dealing a blow to the Justice Department's long pursuit of accountability for a 2007 shooting of unarmed civilians that drew international condemnation during the Iraq War.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth of the District of Columbia declared a mistrial after a jury of seven women and five men said it was deadlocked on the 16th day of deliberations in

the case of Nicholas Slatten. Slatten, 34, was accused of unleashing the first shots that set off machine-gun and grenade fire that killed or injured 31 civilians in stopped traffic at Baghdad's Nisour Square on Sept. 16, 2007.

It was the second time Slatten faced trial on murder charges in the shooting rampage that outraged diplomatic and humanitarian circles and sparked calls to end the U.S. government's use of private military forces.

Slatten will remain detained until at least Sept. 14, when Assistant U.S. Attorney Fernando Camacho-Sanchez said prosecutors will come back to Lamberth and Slatten's de-

fense team to say whether the government intends to try him again.

Charges were first brought against six Blackwater employees in 2008, and over the next decade their cases careened among trial and appeals courts.

Iraqi shooting survivors and relatives of victims testified in person in U.S. courts over the years of extended proceedings, including 30 in 2014 who represented the largest number of foreign witnesses to have traveled to the United States for a criminal trial, prosecutors said at the time.

## MILITARY

# Bill seeks to allow battlefield crosses in national cemeteries

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers on Wednesday considered a bill to force the National Cemetery Administration to allow battlefield crosses following the controversial removal of the grave markers from three veterans cemeteries last year.

Battlefield crosses, made up of a dead soldier's rifle, helmet, boots and dog tags, are used to mark a death in combat. A stone depiction of one was removed from the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery last September, sparking outcry from local veterans and elected officials.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, which manages national veterans' cemeteries, said at the time that VA policy prohibited realistic-looking depictions of firearms.

Displays were also removed from cemeteries in Illinois and Michigan, said Rep. Jim Renacci, R-Ohio, during a hearing Wednesday of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs sub-panel on disability assistance and memorial affairs.

"This misrepresentation of policy ignores the special place the battlefield cross occupies in the hearts of our veterans," Renacci said.

The battlefield cross in Ohio was put there by a local VFW chapter, members of which were "in dismay" when the memorial was removed, the VFW said Wednesday in a statement.

"To VFW members, all of whom have deployed into harm's

way in a foreign land, the battlefield cross has a special significance," VFW director Carlos Fuentes said. "It is used to honor and remember our brothers and sisters who have made the ultimate sacrifice."

In response to their complaints, the VA returned the displays last in 2017.

Renacci, however, said he thinks a rule permitting depictions of battlefield crosses should be put into law so VA officials in the future can't decide to remove them again. He introduced H.R. 4312, the Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross Memorial Act, to allow them.

"As the removal last year demonstrated, policies and their interpretations can change," Renacci said. "Without the force of law, there are no permanent protections in place."

The VA is opposed to the bill.

Matthew Sullivan, a deputy undersecretary with the VA's National Cemetery Administration, said the legislation would prevent the VA from establishing standards for what the battlefield crosses would look like. The VA typically has oversight about the size and design of memorials placed in national cemeteries.

"It raises questions of VA's ability to establish design standards to ensure consistency in appearance and maintenance of monuments," he said.

The bill must be considered by the full House Committee on Veterans' Affairs before going for a vote on the House floor.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

## Air Force innovation hub launches in Montgomery

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An Air Force innovation hub has opened in Alabama to harness research and technology for the military.

"Mission Launch 2018" was meant to introduce the hub's mission to defense and regional leaders, Alcom reported. MGMWERX will be operating out of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce building.

MGMWERX is a partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory.

The facility is part of a network of WERX hubs and will take ideas generated from nearby Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base to solve technological or efficiency problems faced by the military.

Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton, Air University president, said the hub will take concepts and "incubate

them" to solve difficult Air Force and Department of Defense issues.

"This is a direct link to the Secretary of Defense's National Defense Strategy developing a lethal force though evolving innovative operational concepts," Cotton said. "That critical thinking happens right up the street at Maxwell Air Force Base and will blossom right here."

MGMWERX Director Bill Martin said a team of five will integrate concepts and technology "from the public sector with the broad spectrum of Air Force proposals brought forward by some of the brightest minds in the service."

Anna Buckalew, executive vice president of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce said MGMWERX "will be a model for communities around the world."

# Macedonia told name change required for NATO membership

By KONSTANTIN TESTORIDES  
AND DEREK GATOPULOS  
Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told Macedonia's political leaders Thursday that the Balkan country could join the military alliance only if voters back a name change that will placate concerns within neighboring Greece.

Stoltenberg met with Prime Minister Zoran Zaev to express support for his "yes" campaign in the Sept. 30 referendum over the proposed name change of Macedonia to North Macedonia.

The proposal came after years of discussions with Greece, which has fretted over the name Macedonia ever since the former Yugo-

slavia broke up in the early 1990s. Greece has argued that the name Macedonia implied a territorial claim against the Greek region of Macedonia and ancient heritage.

As a member of NATO, Greece has for years vetoed attempts by Macedonia to join the alliance. Despite the agreement at the highest levels of government, conservative opposition parties in both countries remain firmly opposed to the agreement.

Protests against the deal are expected at the weekend in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Stoltenberg told reporters in Skopje. "There is no way you can join NATO without the name agreement."

To believe otherwise, he said, was an "absolute and total delusion."

Zaev said he was confident of victory in the referendum, citing recent opinion polls.

Western leaders have strongly backed Zaev's campaign. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are due to visit Skopje Friday and Saturday.

In central Skopje, Stoltenberg attended a ceremony to rename a street after his father, the late Norwegian politician Thorvald Stoltenberg.

As a young diplomat, he helped coordinate a major international relief effort in the wake of a devastating earthquake in Skopje in 1963.

## Over Here or Over There, We've Got You Covered



### GEICO OVERSEAS BENEFITS

- Flexible payment plans
- Worldwide claims service in English
- Maintain a continuous driving record
- Coverage in most countries

# GEICO®

geico.com/overseas

Europe: 0049-631-41463100 USA: 800-248-4998

overseas@geico.com

AUTO

MOTORCYCLE

PERSONAL PROPERTY

BOAT

Overseas coverages provided by non-affiliated insurance companies through GEICO Financial Services, GmbH, a GEICO affiliate. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states. In all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Homeowners, renters and credit coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2018. © 2018 GEICO



## NATION

# Trump fumes over anonymous NYT op-ed

By ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pushing back against explosive reports his own administration is conspiring against him, President Donald Trump lashed out against the anonymous senior official who wrote an opinion piece in The New York Times claiming to be part of a “resistance” working “from within” to thwart the commander-in-chief’s most dangerous impulses.

Washington was consumed by a wild guessing game as to the identity of the author, and swift denials of involvement in the op-ed came Thursday from top administration officials, including the office of Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Trump was furious, tweeting Thursday morning that “The Deep State and the Left, and their vehicle, the Fake News Media, are going Crazy — & they don’t know what to do.”

On Wednesday night, Trump tweeted a demand that if “the GUTLESS anonymous person does indeed exist, the Times must, for National Security purposes, turn him/her over to government at once!” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders called on the “coward” who wrote the piece to “do the right thing and resign.”

White House officials did not immediately respond to a request to elaborate on Trump’s call for the writer to be turned over to the government or the unsupported national security ground of his demand.

To some, the ultimatum appeared to play into the very concerns about the president’s impulses raised by the essay’s author. Trump has demanded that aides identify the leaker, according to two people familiar with



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Donald Trump responds to a reporter’s question during an event with sheriffs in the East Room of the White House on Wednesday.

the matter, though it was not yet clear how they might go about doing so. The two were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

In a “House of Cards”-style plot twist, Trump allies and political insiders scrambled to unmask the writer.

The author, claiming to be part of the “resistance” to Trump “working diligently from within” his administration, said, “Many Trump appointees have vowed to do what we can to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump’s more misguided impulses until he is out of office.”

“It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults

in the room,” the author continued. “We fully recognize what is happening. And we are trying to do what’s right even when Donald Trump won’t.”

Trump raged about the piece in the White House, calling around to confidants to vent about the disloyalty of the author and fuming that the so-called “Deep State” within the federal government had conspired against him, according to a person familiar with the president’s views but not authorized to discuss them publicly.

Trump, appearing at an unrelated event Wednesday at the White House, lashed out at the Times for publishing the op-ed.

“They don’t like Donald Trump and I don’t like them,” he said of the newspaper. The op-ed

pages of the newspaper are managed separately from its news department.

In a blistering statement, the press secretary late Wednesday accused the author of choosing to “deceive” the president by remaining in the administration and putting himself or herself “ahead of the will of the American people. The coward should do the right thing and resign.”

Sanders also called on the Times to “issue an apology” for publishing the piece, calling it a “pathetic, reckless and selfish op-ed.”

Showing her trademark ability to attract attention, former administration official Omarosa Manigault Newman tweeted that clues about the writer’s identity

were in her recently released tell-all book, offering a page number: 330. The reality star writes on that page: “many in this silent army are in his party, his administration, and even in his own family.”

The anonymous author wrote in the Times that where Trump has had successes, they have come “despite — not because of — the president’s leadership style, which is impetuous, adversarial, petty and ineffective.”

The assertions in the column were largely in line with complaints about Trump’s behavior that have repeatedly been raised by various administration officials, often speaking on condition of anonymity. And they were published a day after the release of details from an explosive new book by longtime journalist Bob Woodward that laid bare concerns among the highest echelon of Trump aides about the president’s judgment.

The writer of the Times op-ed said Trump aides are aware of the president’s faults and “many of the senior officials in his own administration are working diligently from within to frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations. I would know. I am one of them.”

The writer also alleged “there were early whispers within the cabinet of invoking the 25th Amendment” because of the “instability” witnessed in the president. The 25th Amendment allows the vice president to take over if the commander in chief is “unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.” It requires that the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet back relieving the president.

The writer added: “This isn’t the work of the so-called deep state. It’s the work of the steady state.”

## Account of friction threatens Trump-Mattis relationship

By MISSY RYAN and DAN LAMOTHE  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An explosive new account of friction between President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis threatens to impair their relationship and undermine the former Marine general’s role as an influential voice for foreign policy continuity.

A forthcoming book by veteran journalist Bob Woodward, sections of which were described Tuesday by The Washington Post, recounts a series of episodes involving Mattis and Trump. Woodward writes, for example, that after a National Security Council meeting on the Korean Peninsula, Mattis said the president had the understanding of “a fifth- or sixth-grader.”

Mattis vigorously denied insulting the president and described the exchanges in the book as “a product of someone’s rich imagination.” On Wednesday, Trump said Mattis was “doing a fantastic job” and would stay in the White House.

But the reporting from one of America’s



MANISH SWARUP/AP

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, left, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stand together before a meeting in New Delhi, India, on Thursday.

most respected journalists nevertheless adds urgency to a question that has been building across Washington in recent months: How long will Trump remain comfortable with a Pentagon chief with a reputation for keeping him in check?

The book comes at a delicate moment in the Trump presidency, as the White House

struggles to project its message of success in a year marked by personnel drama, fallout from the Russia probe, and a series of presidential spats with everyone from TV stars to world leaders.

Retired Adm. Jim Stavridis, who served alongside Mattis and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly, another former general who is depicted in the book making disparaging comments about Trump, said the reporting added new credence to a damaging portrait of the presidency.

“We must face the reality that there is real international danger ahead as a result of such confusion and acrimony at the top of our national security structure,” said Stavridis, who is now chief operating officer with the Carlyle Group.

Since taking over at the Pentagon 19 months ago, Mattis has cut a sharp contrast to his unpredictable commander in chief. He has quietly made a traditionalist mark on the administration’s foreign policy, talking the president out of embracing torture and securing his reluctant support for operations in Syria and Afghanistan.

Again and again Mattis has walked back provocative statements by Trump, as the president seemed to question the U.S. allegiance to NATO and commitment to keeping troops in South Korea. All that has made Mattis a favorite not just of lawmakers from both parties but allied nations struggling to make sense of the Trump era.

“What he’s trying to do is help Trump think through how his conflicting and somewhat impulsive instincts might translate into policy,” said Michael O’Hanlon, a defense scholar at the Brookings Institution.

Mattis has managed to avoid the public flaps that sabotaged Trump’s dealings with senior leaders such as former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who reportedly called the president a “moron.” Mattis has kept a studiously low profile, appearing only rarely on television, sidestepping political controversy and telegraphing his deference to the president. That restrained demeanor makes the picture presented by Woodward all the more striking, adding new heft to previous reports of Mattis correcting or containing his boss.

## VETERANS

## Delays in Forever GI Bill could affect vets' checks

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Student veterans starting the 2018-19 school year could receive incorrect housing payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs because the campus missed a deadline to fully implement changes to how the checks are calculated, lawmakers and veteran advocates said Wednesday.

Last year, Congress approved the Forever GI Bill, a major expansion of veterans' education benefits, and gave the VA until Aug. 1 to establish its 34 new provisions. One of the changes is to calculate veterans' housing allowances based on the ZIP codes of the campuses where they attend classes.

The VA failed to meet the Aug. 1 deadline because of problems with the technology required to complete the new calculations. VA officials told lawmakers that they would update the technology by

mid-August. As of Wednesday, the new system still wasn't in place.

"It's come to my attention that the VA has screwed up accountability and responsibility for a Forever GI Bill benefit," Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said Wednesday at a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing. "The changes that should've been made in information technology weren't made. The checks and balances we have built into the system weren't followed." Student Veterans of America, which has nearly 1,500 chapters at colleges nationwide, is hearing from members concerned about their payments, said Barrett Bogue, the group's vice president of public relations.

"I haven't heard from a critical mass of student veterans who've been negatively affected yet, but I have heard from schools and representatives that this is a problem and it needs to be addressed as soon as possible," he said.

As of Wednesday, the VA was testing the technology needed to

implement the change to housing allowances, VA press secretary Curt Cashour said. He did not provide an estimated time for when the issue would be fixed, and said only that "VA will announce a deployment date upon completion of testing."

"The VA went from saying 'We'll have it implemented in mid-August' to not providing even a date," Bogue said. "That's cause for concern."

The VA said it was in the process of preparing to notify students and schools regarding the impact to payments. Cashour did not provide an estimate of how many veterans would be affected by the problem.

Since the Forever GI Bill was signed, the VA has implemented 28 of its 34 measures, Cashour

said.

"It just so happens one they didn't is the one that affects the living allowance," Bogue said. "It's affecting livelihood."

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, promised Wednesday "aggressive oversight" on what he described as a "serious problem."

The House committee already held two hearings on implementation of the Forever GI Bill, one late last year and another in July. At the July hearing, retired Maj. Gen. Robert Worley II, the VA director of VA education services, said it was a "complex, heavy-lift effort." The VA hired 200 workers to handle the additional workload.

"It's troubling to me that VA still has not yet finalized the IT sys-

tems needed to fully implement the law, despite having a year to do so," Roe said Wednesday in a statement. "It is now a month past the deadline set in the law ... and the department's failure to do so is unacceptable."

The VA's chief information officer, Scott Blackburn, resigned in April. At a confirmation hearing Wednesday, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee questioned James Gfrerfer, the person nominated to replace him.

Student Veterans of America is encouraging any veteran who believes they received an incorrect or delayed housing stipend to contact the VA's GI Bill hotline at 888-GIBill-1 or the White House VA Hotline at 855-948-2311.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

## Lawmakers ask new VA chief for pot research

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of lawmakers is urging the new Department of Veterans Affairs secretary to research marijuana as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and chronic pain.

In a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie on Thursday, the lawmakers asked him to initiate a "rigorous clinical trial" of the drug. In recent years, more veterans have come out in support of marijuana as a potential alternative to addictive opioids.

"We believe VA has the authority, ability and capacity to carry out such a study," they wrote. "Many of our nation's veterans already use medicinal cannabis, and they deserve to have full knowledge of the potential benefits and side effects of this alternative therapy."

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., and Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, signed the letter, along with Democrats Sen. Jon Tester, of Montana, and Rep. Tim Walz, of Minnesota.

Their appeal follows months of seeking help on the issue from former VA Secretary David Shulkin. During Shulkin's last months in the job, Walz urged him to support marijuana research. Shulkin cited bureaucratic red tape as a reason why the agency couldn't.

Wilkie, who was sworn in as VA secretary in July, hasn't spoken publicly about medical marijuana as a potential treatment for veterans.

"I think this is an opportunity to get him on the record and get a more clear understanding of what his perception is about how the VA can conduct cannabis research," said Eric Goepel, founder of the Veterans Cannabis Coalition, an

advocacy group founded by veterans to promote the legal use of marijuana.

Nick Etten, a former Navy SEAL who founded the Veterans Cannabis Project, another veterans advocacy group dedicated to the medicinal use of marijuana, said he also has "no idea" where Wilkie stands on the drug. The lawmakers asked him for a prompt response to their letter.

"Secretary Wilkie has the opportunity to put medicine before politics and address one of the greatest needs of veterans right now, and that is alternative therapies for the signature wounds of war," Etten said. "I hope he does the right thing and addresses this directly and aggressively."

Roe, the chairman, and Walz, the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced legislation in April to clarify that the VA has the authority to study marijuana.

The purpose of the bill, titled the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act, is to push the VA to initiate research, but it stops short of mandating it.

The House committee unanimously sent the bill to the full House in May. However, it's uncertain when — or whether — it will be scheduled for a vote on the House floor.

"Chairman Roe is still supportive of [the bill] but is open to other avenues to facilitate research, which is why he signed Sen. Tester's letter," said Tiffany Haverly, communications director for Roe. "The chairman believes scientific evidence is needed before VA can determine whether or not medicinal cannabis is an effective treatment for veterans."

wentling.nikki@stripes.com  
Twitter: @nikkiwentling



**WHILE YOU SERVE  
YOUR COUNTRY,  
LET US SERVE YOU**



**Associates Understand Overseas Military Lifestyle**  
**Services Designed for U.S. and Overseas Banking**  
**Dedicated Locations in U.S. Military Communities**  
**Help with Your Personal Financial Needs**

Visit [DoDCommunityBank.com](http://DoDCommunityBank.com)  
for more information and to  
find the banking center or ATM  
nearest you

**CommunityBank**

Operated by **Bank of America**



## NATION

## Documents dispute dominates Kavanaugh hearing

## Earlier position on Roe revealed

By LISA MASCARO  
AND MARK SHERMAN  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation tumbled into highly charged arguing Thursday over whether key documents were being withheld, and one Democrat risked Senate discipline by releasing confidential material. A newly disclosed email revealed that President Donald Trump's pick once suggested Roe v. Wade was not settled law.

The finger-pointing over the unusual vetting process for Trump's nominee made for a rough start for the final day of questioning of Kavanaugh, who so far has avoided major missteps that could block his confirmation. Republican John Cornyn, of Texas, said senators could be expelled from office for violating confidentiality rules, while Democrats led by Cory Booker, of New Jersey, responded, "Bring it on."

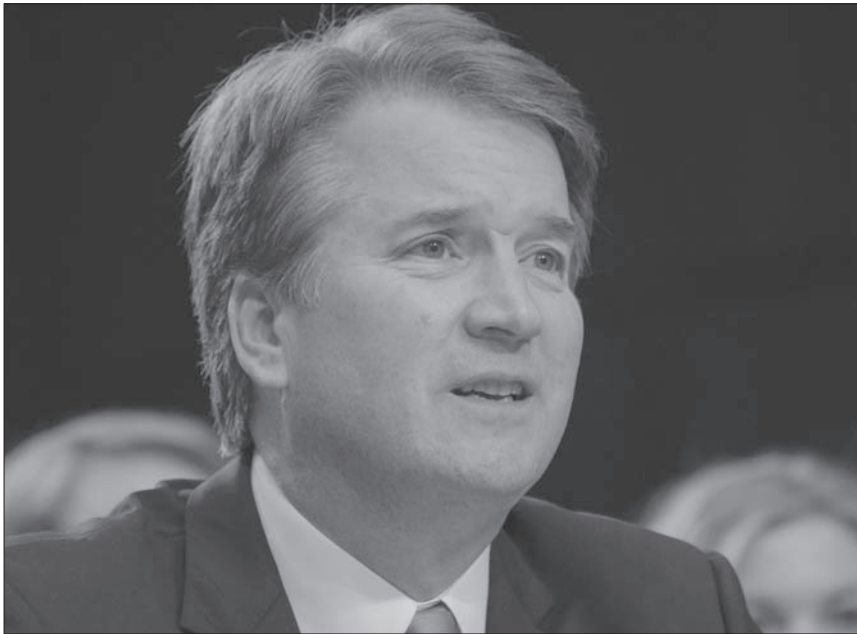
Meanwhile, it was shown, in an email obtained by The Associated Press, that Kavanaugh had taken a different tone on a 2003 abortion case than he had during Wednesday's hearing, when he stressed how difficult it is to overturn precedents like Roe. In the email, Kavanaugh was reviewing a potential op-ed article in support of two judicial nominees while he was working at the George W. Bush White House, according to the document. It had been held by the committee as confidential.

"I am not sure that all legal scholars refer to Roe as the settled law of the land at the Supreme Court level since Court can at always overrule its precedent, and three current Justices on the Court would do so," Kavanaugh wrote, referring to justices at the time, in an email to a Republican Senate aide. The document is partially redacted.

Asked about it by the committee's top Democrat, Dianne Feinstein of California, Kavanaugh reiterated his previous testimony that "Roe v. Wade is an important precedent of the Supreme Court."

The 15-year-old email underscored a dispute that has dominated part of the hearing over Kavanaugh's unusually long paper trail stemming from his years in the Bush White House. The panel's process resulted in hundreds of thousands of pages of Kavanaugh's documents being withheld as confidential or kept from release under presidential privilege by the Trump White House.

Booker called the process "a bit of a sham." He was chastised by GOP colleagues for having discussed a confidential document about Kavanaugh's legal views on race. Cornyn said it was "irresponsible and said it was undignified as a senator."



PHOTOS BY JOE GROMELSKY/Stars and Stripes

Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh listens Thursday as senators debate procedural issues at his confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said more documents would be released Thursday and stood by his handling of Kavanaugh's paper trail.

"My process was fair," Grassley said as he opened the session. So far, Kavanaugh appears on track toward confirmation in the Republican-held Senate, but after a marathon, 12-hour session Wednesday, he also does not seem to have changed minds on the committee, which is split along partisan lines.

The judge left unanswered questions over how he would handle investigations of the executive branch and whether he would recuse himself if cases involving Trump under special counsel Robert Mueller's probe end up at the court.

Trump has said he's pleased with his nominee's performance, and Republicans are united behind him, eager to add a conservative judge to the court. Late in the evening, Kavanaugh seemed to stumble at first when questioned by Democrat Kamala Harris of California about whom he might have spoken with at a law firm concerning the investigation into Russian election meddling. The firm in question was founded by Marc Kasowitz, who has represented Trump.

Kavanaugh eventually said he



Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., speaks Thursday at Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing.

couldn't think of any such conversations but would need to see a list of the firm's lawyers.

Protesters repeatedly have tried to interrupt the hearing, which has carried strong political overtones ahead of the November congressional elections. Democrats lack the votes to block confirmation but have been pressing Kavanaugh for his views on abortion rights, gun control and other issues.

On Wednesday the judge insisted he fully embraced the importance of judicial independence. But he refused to provide direct

answers to Democrats who wanted him to say whether there are limits on a president's power to issue pardons, including to himself or in exchange for a bribe. He also would not say whether he believes the president can be subpoenaed to testify. Still, he began his long day in the witness chair by declaring that "no one is above the law."

Democrats are concerned that Kavanaugh, 53, will push the court to the right and that he will side with Trump in cases stemming from Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election and possible ties to the Trump campaign. The judge answered cautiously when asked about most of those matters, refusing an invitation from Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal, of Connecticut, to pledge to step aside from any Supreme Court cases dealing with Trump and Mueller's investigation.

Under questioning by Republicans, Kavanaugh stressed the importance of judicial independence, "not being swayed by political or public pressure."

On abortion, Kavanaugh noted that Roe has been affirmed "many times." He defended his dissenting opinion last year in the case of a pregnant immigrant teen in federal custody. Kavanaugh would have denied her imme-

diate access to an abortion, even after she received permission from a Texas judge.

Kavanaugh told Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, he had been unaware of the domestic violence allegations against Rob Porter, who was Trump's staff secretary, until they were disclosed publicly. Journalist Bob Woodward's new book about Trump says Kavanaugh recommended Porter for the job.

Kavanaugh had served as staff secretary to George W. Bush, and his work in the White House has figured in the hearing. Democratic senators have fought for access to documents from his three years as staff secretary, saying those could shed light on his views about policies from that era, including the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects. Republicans have declined to seek the papers, and instead have gathered documents from his work as White House counsel to Bush.

When questioned about the honesty of his 2006 testimony during his nomination for the appellate court when he said he was not involved in some Bush-era policies, Kavanaugh said he was "100 percent accurate."

Republicans hope to confirm Kavanaugh in time for the first day of the new Supreme Court term, Oct. 1.



## NATION

# Trump may tax \$200B more in Chinese goods

BY PAUL WISEMAN  
AND ANNE D'INNOCENZO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration may be about to slap tariffs of up to 25 percent on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese goods, escalating a confrontation between the world's two biggest economies and likely squeezing U.S. companies that export everything from handbags to bicycle tires.

The administration could decide to begin taxing the imports — equal to nearly 40 percent of all the goods China sold the U.S. last year — after a public comment period ends Thursday.

China said it is ready to impose retaliatory tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. goods if that happens.

"China will have to take necessary countermeasures if the U.S. side ignores the opposition of the overwhelming majority of its enterprises and adopts new tariff mea-

sures," Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said Thursday.

The U.S. already has imposed tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese products, and Beijing has punched back with tariffs on \$50 billion in American goods. Those U.S. goods include soybeans and beef — a direct shot at supporters of President Donald Trump in the U.S. farm belt.

Trump initiated the trade war to punish Beijing for what it says are China's predatory tactics to try to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. Those tactics, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has alleged, include stealing trade secrets through computer hacking and forcing U.S. companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

In the early rounds of the hostilities, the administration targeted Chinese industrial imports to try to spare American consumers from higher import costs. But if Trump adds the \$200 billion in Chinese products to the target list, American consumers

likely would feel the pinch directly.

Many American companies that rely on targeted Chinese imports are bracing for the next round of tariffs to hit, with some wondering whether they can absorb the higher costs or instead will need to pass them along to their customers — or find alternatives suppliers outside China.

"An escalation of the tariff war could start to sever or disrupt supply chains, bringing about diminished production efficiency, higher costs and lost competitiveness — ultimately leading to a lower potential growth rate for both countries," analysts at S&P Global Ratings wrote Wednesday.

They say a full-blown trade war by 2021 could shrink America's annual economic output by an average of one-third of a percentage point and China's by two-tenths of a percentage point from 2019 through 2021.

The trade war could inflict further damage if it rattles financial markets, thereby

hurting business confidence and potentially discouraging investment.

Sherill Mosee, founder of MinkeeBlue, a Philadelphia company that makes travel and work bags, said that her 4-year-old business will probably have to suspend operations if the tariffs hit and the administration starts taxing imported Chinese luggage and handbags.

MinkeeBlue relies on inexpensive imports to be able to sell for less than \$200 an all-purpose bag for working women that holds shoes and a lunch bag. Mosee said she won't be able to either absorb higher import costs or pass them on to her customers.

Finding a supplier outside China likely would take months, she said.

"I'm scared; I am overwhelmed," Mosee said. "I'm just beginning to grow my business. I finally feel good about the direction of the business, and now this is happening."

## Pompeo, Mattis talk bolstering Indian ties despite tensions

BY TIM SULLIVAN  
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis held long-delayed talks Thursday with top Indian officials, looking to shore up the alliance with one of Washington's top regional partners.

The talks were scheduled to last just a few hours and focus on strategic and security topics. They came amid a series of divisive issues, including Washington's demands that India stop buying Iranian oil and a Russian air-defense system and news reports that President Donald Trump privately mimicked the accent of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

But with trade and strategic ties growing quickly between the U.S. and India, both countries have been eager to downplay potential diplomatic troubles.

"Freedom means that at times, nations don't agree with each other," Mattis told reporters on his way to India, when asked about the country's plans to buy a sophisticated Russian air-defense system. "That doesn't mean we can't be partners. That doesn't mean we don't respect the sovereignty of those nations."

The India-U.S. "2+2" talks — called that because they include the top diplomatic and defense officials of both countries — have been postponed twice, the last time when Pompeo was dispatched in July for talks in North Korea.

Pompeo and Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met separately Thursday before joining top defense officials for talks.

"India attaches the highest priority to its strategic partnership with the United States. We see that the United States is our partner of choice," Swaraj said in her opening remarks.

Pompeo said the U.S. values its relationship with India, and noted "we fully support India's rise."

Mattis and Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also met separately before joining the other two leaders.

Sitharaman in his opening remarks said that defense cooperation has become one of the most significant dimensions of the countries' relationship.

She also said the two countries were putting in place a framework for closer cooperation between their militaries and defense establishments. She invited U.S. companies to become active partners in India's efforts to promote its local defense industry.

"Today, our partnership has become one of the most consequential in the region and in the world," Mattis said.

The U.S. and India, he said, already have the foundation in their commitment to "a safe, secure prosperous and free Indo-Pacific region where sovereignty of all nations is respected, international norms are upheld, disputes are resolved peacefully and nations freely transit international waters and airspace."

He recalled Modi's words that nations should be free from impossible debt burdens caused by others.

There are sticking points, however, including the purchase by India of Iranian oil and the Russian S-400 air and-to-air missile system, which could trigger U.S. sanctions on India.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Jeff Bezos and his wife, MacKenzie, arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif., in March.

## Bezos donates \$10M to super PAC focused on helping elect veterans

BY RACHEL SIEGEL,  
MICHELLE YEE LEE  
AND JOHN WAGNER  
The Washington Post

Amazon.com founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos and his wife, MacKenzie, are making their first major political contribution with a \$10 million gift to a super PAC focused on electing veterans to public office.

The super PAC, With Honor, works with candidates across political parties. Unlike other megadonors who have poured tens of millions of dollars into Republican or Democratic campaigns, the Bezos couple chose a group whose 2018 mission includes reversing "the trend of veteran decline in Congress."

Earlier this year, Forbes ranked Bezos — who owns The Washington Post — the richest man in the world, with a net worth of more than \$150 billion. On Tuesday,

Amazon became the second publicly traded company in the U.S. to reach a value of more than \$1 trillion.

Bezos' first major foray into electoral politics comes at a time of his rising influence and wealth.

Last year, Bezos announced plans to increase his charitable giving, tweeting a "request for ideas" to his followers, saying he is "thinking about a philanthropy strategy that is the opposite of how I mostly spend my time."

In recent years, Blue Origin and Amazon.com have increased their spending on lobbying to influence rule-making and policy makers on air transportation and internet policies, according to records analyzed by the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics.

Now Bezos is wading directly into electoral politics, pouring

heavily into a bipartisan group to elect members of Congress. Among the candidates the group is supporting are Democratic veterans in some of the most competitive House races this fall. But the group also is supporting Republicans in House races across the country.

Bezos' most notable political donation prior to this cycle was in 2012, when he gave \$2.5 million to the campaign to defend gay marriage in Washington state. Bezos previously has given to both Republican and Democratic candidates for Congress.

He and his wife have given to the political action committees of Amazon.com and Blue Origin, the commercial space company that Bezos founded. Both of those committees have supported Democrats and Republicans, including this election cycle.

## NATION

# Redistricting fights loom as midterms near

By DAVID A. LIEB

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The task of drawing new boundaries for thousands of federal and state legislative districts is still about three years away, yet the political battle over redistricting already is playing out in this year's midterm elections.

North Carolina's congressional elections were thrown into a week of uncertainty when a federal judicial panel raised the possibility that it would order new districts before the fall elections to correct what it had ruled was unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering. It opted against doing that on Tuesday, conceding there was not enough time.

In Colorado, Michigan, Mis-

souri and Utah, campaigns are underway for November ballot initiatives that would change the redistricting process so it's less partisan and creates more competitive districts. Democratic and Republican groups are pouring millions of dollars into state races seeking to ensure they have officeholders in position to influence the next round of redistricting.

The results from the 2020 census are to be delivered to states in spring 2021, triggering a mandatory once-per-decade redistricting for U.S. House and state legislative seats to account for population changes. How those districts get drawn can help determine which party controls those chambers for years to come.

Current political boundaries

are being legally challenged in about a dozen states on claims of political or racial gerrymandering. The lawsuits seek to force districts to be temporarily redrawn for the 2020 elections and, more importantly, to establish legal precedents to be followed during the next census-based redistricting.

A lawsuit in North Carolina appears to hold the greatest potential for change. A federal judicial panel has ruled that 12 of the state's 13 congressional districts violate the U.S. Constitution because Republican state lawmakers drew them to their own party's benefit while infringing on the rights of Democratic voters. The case is likely to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which thus far has shied away from set-

ting a standard for determining when partisan gerrymandering becomes unconstitutional.

Critics of partisan gerrymandering point to North Carolina to illustrate why they believe the process is unfair and disenfranchises voters of the other party. Democrats account for the greatest number of registered voters in the state and hold the governor's office, while registered Republicans and independents are equally divided. Yet the state's delegation to the U.S. House is 10 Republicans and three Democrats thanks partly to the congressional lines drawn by GOP lawmakers to maximize their advantage.

A similar partisan gerrymandering claim remains pending against the Wisconsin state As-

sembly districts after the nation's highest court in June directed the case back to a lower court for more proceedings.

Pennsylvania's congressional districts were redrawn earlier this year after the state Supreme Court ruled that the Republican-drawn boundaries amounted to an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander. Candidates are running under the new map in the November election, with Democrats hoping to cut into what had been a roughly 2-to-1 seat advantage for Republicans in a state where Democrats have a slight registration advantage over Republicans and have dominated statewide elections. A majority of the state's Supreme Court justices were elected as Democrats.

## Democratic Party shifting as it searches for leaders

By BILL BARROW  
AND BOB SALSBERG

Associated Press

BOSTON — When Ayanna Pressley topped a 10-term congressman in a Massachusetts district once represented by John Fitzgerald Kennedy, she became the latest face of a burgeoning movement of the grassroots left.

"This is a fight for the soul of our party and the future of our democracy," Pressley said.

That movement is reshaping a Democratic Party still searching for leaders and identity in the era of President Donald Trump.

Grassroots activists on the left have a mixed record in Democratic primaries this election year, but the self-described progressive movement has scored enough victories to suggest its popularity is based on more than just protesting the Trump White House. The movement is also remodeling the Democratic Party into a younger, more diverse and decidedly liberal party.

Pressley and New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, two women of color, both defeated Democratic incumbent congressmen in their primaries. The progressive movement has helped nominate three black Democrats for governor's seats, including a clear upset in Florida, where Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum knocked off establishment favorite Gwen Graham. Graham's establishment credentials could not have been stronger. Her father, Bob, served as Florida's governor and as a U.S. senator.

Georgia's Stacey Abrams, meanwhile, trounced a primary opponent recruited and backed by much of her state's Democratic old guard. Abrams would become the first black woman elected governor in any U.S. state.

Scores of other down-ballot candidates are running for local, state and federal offices with backing from grassroots groups like Indivisible, MoveOn.org, the Working Families Party and the offshoot of Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign, Our Revolution.

The diversifying, more liberal sale will be measured by the outcome in the November vote.

Republicans — and some Democrats —



BILL SHKES/AP

Ayanna Pressley, who won the 7th Congressional District Democratic primary Tuesday, speaks Wednesday at a Massachusetts Democratic Party unity event in Boston.

argue that the party is going too far to the left for American voters, particularly outside of the cities and close-in suburbs where Democrats' base of white liberals and nonwhite voters is concentrated.

Progressive nominees like Pressley and Ocasio-Cortez are running in Democratic strongholds, so their wins in November are all but guaranteed. But Republicans will use the rise of the left — and its support for policies like single-payer health care and scrapping U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement — to tar all Democratic candidates.

The counter argument from Democrats and activists on the left is twofold. First, many issues that more liberal candidates support — some gun regulation, expanding Medicaid, raising the minimum wage — actually have widespread public support, even among independents and some Republicans; and second, the more openly liberal candidates from outside the old-guard establishment can bring in new voters who don't regularly cast midterm ballots.

Beyond November, the new generation of Democrats will have a say in how the party governs. Pressley and Ocasio-Cortez won't determine whether Democrats pick up the 23 new House seats they need for a majority, but they'll help shape the arguments within the Democratic caucus.

They and their fellow freshmen will have a say in whether a new Democratic majority returns Nancy Pelosi to the speaker's chair.

They'll have leverage — much like the arch-conservative Freedom Caucus does with the House GOP leadership — over every debate, from health care to the potential impeachment of Trump.

So, for example, while there might not be enough support for a real push toward single-payer health care, the movement could draw the party toward supporting a public health insurance option to compete alongside for-profit companies selling policies in Affordable Care Act exchanges. And, even if an immediate \$15 minimum wage is too heavy a lift, perhaps the left-flank forces a compromise of graduated raises over time.

Before primary season concludes, there are a few more key matchups to measure the left's influence. In Delaware, military veteran and activist Kerr Evelyn Harris is aiming Thursday to knock off moderate Democratic Sen. Tom Carper. She's a big underdog, but even a competitive finish will serve notice anew that incumbents must at least contend with the left base. Similar dynamics exist in New York, where actress Cynthia Nixon is trying to topple Gov. Andrew Cuomo in a Sept. 13 primary.

Some of the most intent observers of party's evolution are the gaggle of aspiring presidential candidates. Certainly, some of those figures have helped drive the shift — Sanders won his 2016 campaign, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and her outspoken economic populism.

## Next Chicago mayor to lead deeply divided city

By SARA BURNETT  
AND DON BABWIN

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The next mayor of Chicago will take over a city that is deeply divided by race and class, a decadeslong problem that critics say grew more pronounced during Mayor Rahm Emanuel's two terms in office.

The question for voters now that Emanuel isn't seeking re-election is who, if anyone, can repair it.

A dozen candidates were running to lead the nation's third-largest city even before Emanuel's surprise announcement Tuesday. By Wednesday, the list of people said to be weighing bids seemed to be multiplying by the minute.

Among the most high-profile names being discussed were former Education Secretary Arne Duncan, longtime Barack Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett and Bill Daley, who succeeded Emanuel as Obama's White House chief of staff and is the brother of long-time Chicago Mayor Richard Daley. None of them was competing publicly.

Those running — or contemplating it — as well as activists and community leaders said the next mayor must be focused on uniting Chicago, which has long been one of the nation's most segregated cities. That includes investing more in poor, predominantly minority neighborhoods on the city's West and South Sides, where unemployment and violence rates are dramatically higher than other areas.

"For what the next mayor is someone that has the character and personality to run all of Chicago, not just some of Chicago," said the Rev. Corey Brooks, pastor at New Beginnings Church of Chicago on the South Side, who also said he "might be considering" his own bid.

## NATION



NOAH BERGER/AP

The lights of passing firetrucks are visible near the Delta Fire in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in California on Wednesday.

## Abandoned trucks litter Calif. highway as wildfire rages

Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. — An explosive wildfire closed down dozens of miles of a major California freeway only weeks after a nearby blaze that left neighborhoods in ruins and killed eight people.

The Delta Fire erupted Wednesday afternoon and within hours had devoured nearly 8 square miles of timber and brush on both sides of Interstate 5 near the Oregon state line.

The blaze was human-caused, fire officials said, but they didn't indicate whether it was arson or accident.

Truckers abandoned their vehicles as flames roared up hill-sides. In a video, a passenger in a vehicle screams, "Oh my God,

I want to go!" as trees burst into flames and sheets of fire rolled on the side of the roadway.

About 17 big rigs were abandoned and at least four caught fire, Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Foster, of the California Highway Patrol's Mount Shasta office, told the Los Angeles Times.

U.S. Forest Service workers helped the driver of one flaming truck to safety and other truckers, firefighters and others aided other drivers, he said.

"There's vehicles scattered all over," Brandon Vaccaro, with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told the Redding Record Searchlight. "Whatever occurred here was probably pretty ugly for a while."

About 45 miles of I-5 were

closed in both directions, said Chris Losi, a spokesman for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The road remained closed through Wednesday night, and there was no immediate word on when the lanes would reopen.

The blaze also delayed Amtrak's Coast Starlight service between Sacramento and Oregon.

Scattered rural homes and cabins in and around the forest were under evacuation orders, from the community of Lakehead north to the Siskiyou County line, Losi said.

The fire was showing "critical" behavior — burning fiercely and moving rapidly — but was still far away from any large towns, he added.

## Hospital groups launch own firm to manufacture generic drugs

By LINDA A. JOHNSON

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Several major hospital groups Thursday launched their own generic drug company to tackle chronic shortages and high prices.

The new company, Civica Rx, plans to start with 14 widely used hospital drugs that have long been in short supply. The company isn't disclosing the drugs' names for competitive reasons, but they include a mix of generic pills, patches and injectable drugs for treating infections, pain and heart conditions, board Chairman Dan Liljenquist said.

"The mission of Civica is to make sure these drugs remain

in the public domain, that they're available and affordable to everyone," he said.

Drug shortages have been widespread for more than a decade, particularly for inexpensive generic drugs, due to manufacturers' consolidating, stopping production of low-profit medicines and having to fix manufacturing problems.

Hospitals are particularly hard hit and frequently must scramble to find scarce medicines, often at huge price markups, or come up with workarounds that may not be as effective or safe for patients.

Besides creating a reliable supply for its 500 hospitals, Civica aims to reduce drug prices by

about 20 percent. The drugs will be sold to nonmember hospitals as well, at slightly higher prices, Liljenquist said.

The company, based in the Salt Lake City area, plans to make some of the generics itself and hire companies to produce others, he said. It is aiming to get its first medicines on the market by mid-to late 2019.

Civica was founded and funded by three health foundations and seven hospital groups, among them Intermountain Healthcare, a 23-hospital system based in Salt Lake City where Liljenquist is chief strategy officer. Veterans Affairs and the American Hospital Association also are participating.

## Suspect's mother could be factor in Fla. shooting case

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The extensive criminal and drug abuse history of Parkland school suspect Nikolas Cruz's biological mother could be a key factor in whether he is sentenced to die for the massacre that killed 17 people, legal experts and officials say.

The mother, Brenda Woodard, 62, played no role in Cruz's upbringing after giving him up for adoption after he was born. But her past, which included a crack cocaine purchase arrest while she was pregnant with Cruz, almost certainly will be brought up for a jury considering whether he should live or die.

"It is not necessarily her past, but how her past contributed to his genetic makeup," said David S. Weinstein, a former state and federal prosecutor now in private practice. "Her use of drugs and alcohol while she was pregnant with him, and how her genetic makeup was passed on to him."

"It might not carry the day, but it will give the jurors another mitigating factor to consider," he added.

The identity of Woodard, first reported Wednesday by the Miami Herald, was confirmed to The Associated Press by a person close to the case who spoke on condition of anonymity because it is an ongoing prosecution.

The American Bar Association guidelines for defense lawyers in death penalty cases say they should examine all the defendant's past family closely, going back at least three generations.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, the chairman of a state commission investigating the shooting separately from the prosecution, said Wednesday that all of Cruz's background is relevant.

"If information has come to light about his biological mother and there is some relevance there, of course we will take a look at it," Gualtieri said. "We are looking heavily at his background and his whole life."

Cruz, 19, is charged with 17 counts of murder and 17 counts of attempted murder in the Feb. 14 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. His lawyers say he will plead guilty if spared the death penalty, but prosecutors have refused that offer.

Broward County Public De-

fender Howard Finkelstein declined Wednesday to discuss how Woodard's past might become part of the case. But he repeated that Cruz is ready to end it now.

"Lock him up forever. Throw away the key and never speak his name," Finkelstein said in an email. "Maybe it will curtail some of the pain and hurt that certainly will happen if this case continues on a decades-long march to death."

If the case goes to the death penalty phase, all 12 jurors must agree on capital punishment or Cruz will get an automatic life prison sentence.

Cruz and his brother, Zachary, were both adopted by Roger and Lynda Cruz soon after Woodard gave birth to them. Roger Cruz died when Nikolas was a young child and Lynda died last November, just a few months before the Parkland shooting.

Nikolas Cruz had numerous behavioral and learning problems throughout his life, along with a fascination with guns and his own problems with alcohol and drug abuse.

**'It is not necessarily her past, but how her past contributed to his genetic makeup.'**

David S. Weinstein

former prosecutor

Court and prison records show that Woodard was arrested more than two dozen times from the 1980s through the 2000s for crimes including drug offenses, car theft, weapons possession, burglary,

domestic violence and battery charges. She served a variety of prison sentences over those decades, including one 18-month stretch for car theft and fleeing from a law enforcement officer.

Woodard was charged in 2010 with using a tire iron to beat

someone she shared an apartment

with in a senior living complex.

Her last arrest was in 2011, re-

records show. Woodard did not im-

mediately respond Wednesday to

a message left on her cellphone.

Cruz's half sister and Woodard's

daughter, Danielle Woodard, has

had her own extensive brushes

with the law and is currently im-

prisoned as a habitual offender,

Corrections Department records

show.

Her most recent convictions

include attempted second-degree

murder, cocaine possession, bat-

tery on and fleeing from a law

enforcement officer and credit

card fraud. She is scheduled for

release in 2020.



Woodard



## NATION

# Man charged in Iowa student's death used alias

By RYAN J. FOLEY  
Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The Mexican man charged with abducting and killing an Iowa college student was known for years on the dairy farm where he worked by another name: John Budd.

The alias has emerged as Cristhian Bahena Rivera's employer, a cattle operation owned by a prominent Republican family, faces questions over whether its managers were aware of any warning signs that he was in the country illegally.

The name under which Rivera was hired and paid for the last four years was confirmed by three people with knowledge of his employment history. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information during an ongoing criminal investigation. One of the people said Rivera's work identity as John Budd appears in official government records.

The employer, Yarrabee Farms, declined to confirm or deny Rivera's work identity. Lori Chesser, an immigration employment lawyer advising the farm, said that companies cannot discriminate against workers based on how they look or how their names sound.

Farm officials have said Rivera presented an out-of-state photo identification and a Social Security number when he was hired

in 2014, and they believed he was the person depicted in those documents until his arrest last month.

The farm followed legal requirements to examine the documents and determined "that they appeared genuine on their face and related to the person presenting them," Chesser said. "Questioning a name or other characteristic would violate the anti-discrimination provisions of the law."

During his four years at the farm near the small town of Brooklyn, Iowa, Rivera "was called and responded to the name he used in the hiring process," Chesser said. He lived in a trailer owned by the farm as a benefit of his employment, as do about half of its 10 workers.

The farm did not use the government's voluntary E-Verify system, which allows companies to confirm the identity and eligibility of employees to work in the U.S. Farm manager Dane Lang has apologized for a mistake in falsely claiming to have used E-Verify in an initial statement on Rivera's Aug. 21 arrest, hours after he allegedly led police to Mollie Tibbets' body in a nearby cornfield.

It's unclear whether E-Verify would have detected any red flags with Rivera's claimed identity, but the farm has said it used a different government service to confirm that the name and Social Security number matched.

Police say Rivera followed and confronted Tibbets while she was out for a run on July 18 and later stabbed her to death. He has been jailed on \$5 million bond while awaiting trial on a first-degree murder charge, which carries a sentence of life in prison.



Rivera



A large bong known as Bongzilla is under construction at Cannabilla Cannabis Museum in Las Vegas.  
ISAAC BRINKEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

## Bongzilla is new Vegas attraction

By DAVID MONTERO  
Los Angeles Times

LAS VEGAS — There are two flights of stairs curling around the head-turning glass bong, all 24 feet of it. There also will be an elevator to ferry people from the ground floor — where the pipe's 100-gallon reservoir sits — to the mouthpiece high above.

It weighs more than 800 pounds and the bowl can pack a quarter of a pound of marijuana. It has elements in the glass that will make it glow — greenish mostly — while bathing in black light. Jason Harris, the artist who made it, said it's his artistic opus to the cannabis culture.

"I make giant bongs," he said. "They are my voice to make noise in the world."

But to be heard and noticed among the sensory tsunami on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas — where the bong is housed — is no small task.

And size matters, too. Vegas Vic — the iconic neon cowboy — towers above a souvenir shop and stands 40 feet tall. There's a giant pint of Guinness atop Hennessy's that is 80 feet tall. Slotzilla, a slot machine perched in the middle of Fremont Street, reaches a height of 120 feet.

Harris saw it all as the perfect home for Bongzilla, as his creation has come to be known.

"Las Vegas will be the new Amsterdam of the world," he said. "I see it as a big lighthouse and beacon that says, 'Just smoke me.'"

But the 47-year-old knows that can't happen in Las Vegas, at least not yet.

Though Nevada legalized recreational marijuana in 2017, it can y be consumed only in a private residence. But it's become a booming industry in the state just the same.

Last week, the Nevada Department of Taxation released numbers that showed that for the first full fiscal year, marijuana sales yielded tax collections totaling \$69.8 million — 140 percent of what the state had forecast. Total sales — including medical marijuana and related goods — hit \$529.9 million for the fiscal year.

Cannabilla, the soon-to-open marijuana museum where the bong resides, is not a licensed dispensary, however. It sits on a leased spot of commercial space near a craft brewery and across from a Denny's. The museum is scheduled to open officially this month.

Bongzilla, Harris said, was a significant undertaking.

It took 15 people blowing glass eight hours a day for four days to make Bongzilla in a studio in Seattle. It then had to be disassembled, packed into special boxes and transported in a truck that wouldn't draw a lot of attention. It was driven down Highway 95, a two-lane road that runs along Nevada's western side through a smattering of small towns.

Even though Bongzilla can't legally be used to smoke weed, it was important to Harris that it work. Just in case.

## Crack forms in SF high-rise window

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Inspectors have issued a violation to management of a sinking omnibus window building after a large crack formed in a 36th-floor window of the building dubbed the Leaning Tower of San Francisco.

KNTV, of San Jose, reported Tuesday that Millennium Tower residents heard creaking sounds, then heard a popping noise around 2:30 a.m. Saturday. A homeowner found the crack in a window of his unit at the corner of the 58-story high-rise.

City officials have blocked off part of the sidewalk as a precaution and ordered management to report back on the extent of the problem and soundness of the building's facade.

The downtown tower has settled about 16 inches into landfill and is tilting. Homeowners have filed multiple lawsuits against the developer and the city.



ERIC RISSBERG/AP

A crack has been found in a window in the 58-story Millennium Tower in San Francisco.

## Roy Moore files suit over TV prank

By KIM CHANDLER  
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Failed U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore on Wednesday sued comedian Sacha Baron Cohen for defamation and emotional distress after being pranked on the actor's television show.

The lawsuit appears to be the first actually filed by one of the string of politicians who were duped and humiliated by Baron Cohen on the show "Who Is America."

The lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court in Washington accuses Baron Cohen of defaming Moore and says Moore "suffered extreme emotional distress" as a result of "being falsely portrayed as a sex offender and pedophile" on the show. Moore was duped into appearing on a segment in which Baron Cohen demonstrated a supposed pedophile detecting device that beeped when it came near Moore.

During last year's Senate race, Moore faced accusations that he pursued romantic and sexual relationships with teens as young as 14 when he was a prosecutor in his 30s. He has denied the misconduct allegations.

Larry Klayman, founder of the conservative group Freedom Watch, is representing Moore and his wife, Kayla, in the lawsuit. The complaint names CBS and Showtime as defendants in the case.

"Sasha Baron Cohen, who is not only low class but also a fraudster, will now, along with Showtime and CBS, be held accountable for his outrageous and false, fraudulent and defamatory conduct which callously did great emotional and other damage to this great man and his wife and family," Klayman said in a statement.

Representatives of Baron Cohen did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the lawsuit.

## WORLD

# Landslides bury homes after Japan quake

By EUGENE HOSHIKO, HARUKA NUGA AND MARI YAMAGUCHI  
Associated Press

SAPPORO, Japan — A powerful earthquake Thursday on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido triggered dozens of landslides that crushed houses under torrents of dirt, rocks and timber, prompting frantic efforts to unearth any survivors.

At least nine people were killed, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said. Officials said at least 366 were injured, five of them seriously, and about 30 people were unaccounted for after the magnitude 6.7 earthquake jolted residents from their beds at 3:08 a.m.

Nearly 3 million households were left without power by the quake — the latest in an exhausting run of natural disasters for Japan.

It paralyzed normal business on the island, as blackouts cut off water to homes, immobilized trains and airports, causing hundreds of flight cancellations, and shut down phone systems.

In the town of Atsuma, where entire hillsides collapsed, rescuers used small backhoes and shovels to search for survivors under the tons of earth that tumbled down steep mountainsides, burying houses and farm buildings below. The area's deep green hills were marred by reddish-brown gashes where the soil tore loose under the violent tremors.

Twenty-eight people remained unaccounted for in the town, Atsuma Mayor Shoichiro Miyasaka told public broadcaster NHK.

"We will carry on searching for them," he said.

Miyasaka said the town had emergency meals for up to 2,000 people and that more than 500 had sought refuge in its emergency shelters.

The landslides ripped through some homes and buried others. Some residents described awakening to find their next-door neighbors gone.

"The entire thing just collapsed," said one. "It's unbelievable."

The island's only nuclear power plant, which was offline for routine safety checks, temporarily switched to a backup generator to keep its spent fuel cool. Nuclear regulators said there was no sign of abnormal radiation — a concern after a massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 that hit



Police search for missing people Thursday at the site of a landslide after an earthquake in Atsuma town, Hokkaido, northern Japan.



MASANORI TAKEI, KYODO NEWS/AP

Buildings destroyed by a landslide block a road after the earthquake.

northeast Japan destroyed both external and backup power to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, causing meltdowns.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the quake's epicenter was 24 miles deep. But it still wreaked havoc across much of the relatively sparsely inhabited island.

Many roads were closed and some were impassable. NHK showed workers rushing to clean up shattered glass and reinstall ceiling panels that had fallen in the region's biggest airport at Chitose.

Japan is used to dealing with disasters, but the last few months



MASANORI TAKEI, KYODO NEWS/AP

Police search for missing people around a house destroyed by a landslide.

have brought a string of calamities. The quake came on the heels of a typhoon that lifted heavy trucks off their wheels and triggered major flooding in western Japan, leaving the main airport near Osaka and Kobe closed after a tanker rammed a bridge connecting the facility to the mainland. The summer also brought devastating floods and landslides from torrential rains in Hiroshi-

ma and deadly hot temperatures across the country.

Abe said that up to 25,000 troops and other personnel would be dispatched to Hokkaido to help with rescue operations.

As Japan's northern frontier and a major farming region with rugged mountain ranges and vast forests, Hokkaido is an area accustomed to coping with long winters, isolation and other hardships.

But the blackouts brought on by the quake underscored the country's heavy reliance on vulnerable power systems. Without electricity, water was cut to many homes, train lines were idled and phone systems were out of order.

In the prefectural capital of Sapporo, a city of 1.9 million, the quake ruptured roads and knocked houses askew. A mudslide left several cars half-buried. By evening the city's streets were dark and shops closed.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko told reporters that the extensive power outage was caused by an emergency shutdown of the main thermal power plant at Tomato-Atsuma that supplies half of Hokkaido's electricity.

The hope had been to get power back up within hours, and some electricity was gradually being restored. However, damage to generators at the plant meant that a full restoration of power could take more than a week, Seko said.

Utilities were starting up several other thermal and hydroelectric plants and power was restored to 340,000 households, but even with those stopgap supplies thousands will still be without electricity for some time.

Authorities sent power generator vehicles to hospitals and other locations and water tanker trucks to communities in Sapporo, where residents were collecting bottles to tide them over until electricity and tap water supplies come back online. Long lines of people waited to charge their cellphones at the city's regional government office.

The quake's impact was widespread. To the north, in the scenic town of Biei, residents lined up outside supermarkets and convenience stores, quickly clearing shelves of water, toilet paper and food.

## UK security chief says Putin responsible for nerve agent attack

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's security minister said Thursday that Russian President Vladimir Putin bears ultimate responsibility for the nerve agent attack targeting a former spy in England, also warning that the U.K. would counter Russian "malign activity" with both overt and covert measures.

Ben Wallace said Putin and his government "controls, funds and directs" the military intelligence unit known as the GRU, which Britain believes used Novichok to

try to kill ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal. Skripal and his daughter Yulia were hospitalized for weeks in critical condition after they were exposed to the Soviet-developed nerve agent in the city of Salisbury on March 4. They are now recovering in a secret location for their own protection.

In the nearby town of Amesbury, local woman Dawn Sturgess died and her boyfriend, Daniel Rowley, was sickened after they came across remnants of the poison in June.

Britain on Wednesday announced

charges in absentia against two alleged Russian agents, Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov — names that are likely aliases. Prime Minister Theresa May said the murder attempt had been approved "at a senior level of the Russian state."

Moscow strongly denies involvement in the attack, and Russian officials said they didn't recognize the suspects.

Britain plans to press its case against Russia at the U.N. Security Council on Thursday.

The Skripals' poisoning ignited a diplo-

matic confrontation in which hundreds of envoys were expelled by both Russia and Western nations. But there is limited appetite among Britain's European allies for further sanctions against Moscow.

Wallace told the BBC that Britain would "push back the Russian malign activity" with "whatever means we have within the law and our capabilities."

He said Britain would "challenge the Russians in both the overt and the covert space, within the rule of law and in a sophisticated way."

## WORLD

# Boys relate tale of Thai cave ordeal

Associated Press

BANGKOK — It was showtime Thursday for the 12 boys and their 25-year-old soccer coach who shared their drama of being trapped for almost three weeks in a flooded cave in northern Thailand at a public exhibition in one of Bangkok's largest malls.

The exhibition featuring members of the Wild Boars soccer team also shows a reproduction of the cave with simulated sounds of water dripping. Equipment used by rescuers and other memorabilia are on display.

Psychologists had counseled that after their rescue in July, the boys should be given a six-month respite from being pressed to recount their experience for the sake of their mental health. But Thailand's military government, eager to share the glory of the good news story, has trotted them out for public appearances and interviews.

Other efforts to promote their story have included construction of a museum and the anointing as a national hero of a former Thai navy diver who died while diving in the cave to deliver oxygen tanks.

One exception to the feel-good vibe has been an ongoing feud between tech entrepreneur



GEMINU ANARASINGHE/AP

**Ekalop Chantawong, right, coach of the Wild Boars soccer team, speaks during a public discussion Thursday in Bangkok.**

Elon Musk and a British caving expert, Vernon Unsworth, whose advice and experience were considered crucial to the rescue operation.

In an interview, Unsworth had criticized as showboating a well-publicized effort by Musk to lend a custom-built mini-submarine to the rescue effort, and Musk responded on Twitter with comments strongly implying that the Briton was a pedophile.

For the boys, mostly teens, the Musk controversy is not even a sideshow. They are carefully guided by a Thai government committee set up to control who has access to the boys as they draw attention from filmmakers and the media.

At least five of them at Thursday's forum said in more or less the same words that "my life is the same, but more people are approaching me."

The boys already have detailed much of their adventure in a news conference after they were released from hospital observation

following their rescue and in interviews with the U.S. television network ABC.

In a panel discussion moderated by deputy government spokesman Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak in the Siam Paragon mall on Thursday, they gave mostly brief replies. Adul Sam-on admitted that the area they were staying in the cave stank of urine — the matter of body excretions had been a subject of much speculation on social media.

The boys appeared unaware of the government's advice to avoid talking about their ordeal.

Adul said he was surprised when he met officials such as American diplomats but was not asked about what happened in the cave. He said someone later told him that there was a ban on people asking them questions about it.

His teammate Ekarat Wongsukchan said he was also surprised why no one asked him about the events in the cave. "I started to doubt whether I was also stuck in the cave," he said.

# Germany rips Romania for Hitler-like posting

Associated Press

BERLIN — A German lawmaker has accused representatives of Romania's governing party of engaging in "a campaign of defamation" against the country's German minority.

Bernd Fabritius, who was born in Romania, said in a statement late Wednesday that the smears had recently reached "a new peak," citing a Facebook post by Romania's former finance minister, Darius Valcov, that showed the country's ethnic German president, Klaus Iohannis, with a Hitler-style moustache.

Fabritius, who was appointed by the German government to represent the interests of German minorities in eastern Europe, said he has written directly to Romanian Prime Minister Viorica Dancila, urging her to distance herself from the "collective insults" by her government or Social Democratic party.

Romania's labor minister, Lia Olguța Vasilescu, recently made a similar jibe about Iohannis after he criticized riot police for using tear gas during an anti-corruption protest last month.

# RAMSTEIN BAZAAR

## 13-16 SEPTEMBER 2018

### Ramstein Air Base, Hangars 1 & 2 and the Giant Tent

Follow the "Event" signs to the flightline.

### 13 & 14 September 15 September 16 September

1000-2000 (Stroller Days) 1000-2000 1000-1700

- Entrance requires U.S. or NATO Forces I.D.
- No pets allowed.
- U.S. Dollars, Checks, Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted.



FEATURING  
OVER  
130 VENDORS  
&  
GREAT FOOD



An 86 FSS Event, Produced by the Ramstein Officers' Spouses Club

[www.RamsteinBazaar.org](http://www.RamsteinBazaar.org)

Sponsored in part by:



\* No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended





# 14.09.2018

10 am – midnight



Shopping offers  
up to -70%

OUTLET CITY METZINGEN offers you a traditional Bavarian style event until midnight with child care, culinary delights and musical entertainment. Enjoy a night for all senses!

Further information: [outletcity.com/midnightshopping](http://outletcity.com/midnightshopping)



Child care  
**KIDS CAMP**



Fair with  
interactive booths



Authentic  
traditional music



**FREE BEER**

**FREE BEER**

Our exclusive benefit for you on the day of our "Midnight Shopping Special": upon presentation of this coupon at our promotion counter below the Schwenkeltreppen in front of the Jimmy Choo store, you will get a chip for a free beer while stocks last.

**SAVE MORE MONEY!** These brands accept your VAT forms:

ARMANI | BALLY | BOGNER | BOSS | BOTTEGA VENETA | BURBERRY | CALVIN KLEIN | DOLCE & GABBANA  
DIESEL | ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA | ESCADA | ESPRIT | ETRO | FOSSIL | GUCCI | GUESS HOUR PASSION  
JIMMY CHOO | JOOP! | KIPLING | LORO PIANA | MAMMUT | MARCO POLO | MAX MARA | MISSIONI | MÖVE  
NAPAPIJRI | NIKE | OAKLEY | PETIT BATEAU | POLO RALPH LAUREN | PORSCHÉ DESIGN | PRADA | PUMA  
S. OLIVER SAMSONITE | SCHIESSER | SCHIESSER KIDS | STRELLSON | SWAROVSKI | THE NORTH FACE | TIMBERLAND  
TOD'S | TOMMY HILFGER | WINDSOR | WMF | ZWILING

**ADIDAS** does not accept the form, but gives you a 19 % discount

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## More squirrels leads to more roadkill

**ME** AUGUSTA—Officials said there are more squirrels scampering around southern Maine — and more of them are getting run over by cars as a result.

Maine Audubon biologist Sarah Haggerty said she's surprised by the number of squirrels she's seen around the state. The Portland Press Herald reported a bumper crop of acorns and pine cones are the reasons for the boom in small rodent populations.

The Maine Department of Transportation said crews have noticed more roadkill this year that needs to be cleaned up.

## Apartment combines kitchen, bathroom

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis man is the new tenant of a tiny apartment with a unique layout — the kitchen and bathroom are in the same place. Yep. The toilet, bathtub, oven and sink are all in one room. The 200-square-foot apartment is in St. Louis' tony Central West End.

The ad and photo for the \$525-per-month apartment appeared on several websites. Harold Karabell, of S.F. Shannon Real Estate, Management said the new tenant loves it.

Toilet/kitchen combo aside, Karabell said the apartment has a lot to like, including refinished hardwood floors and new windows.

## Necklace donation will net Goodwill thousands

**NC** GREENSBORO — Diamonds' best friend, a Goodwill's best friend.

Citing a Goodwill Industries of Central North Carolina announcement, news outlets reported a Greensboro resident recently donated an 18-karat, white gold necklace featuring 176 diamonds. Appraised at \$6,480, the necklace has attracted 10 bids on Goodwill's online auction.

The necklace's price has risen from \$1,650.99 on Aug. 31 to \$5,002.01 as of Wednesday morning. The bids jumped Tuesday as news outlets began to report on the find.

Goodwill plans to funnel the proceeds to its mission of providing free and low-cost job training and placement services.

## Woman who said she was robbed is arrested

**DE** HARRINGTON — A woman who reported being robbed has been arrested in Delaware on burglary charges.

The Delaware State News reported Pamela M. Watkins, 47, called police Aug. 31, saying she was being robbed at a business.

According to a Harrington police statement, police responded to a report of a burglary at a home as officers interviewed Watkins.

Police said Watkins had asked



## Roofer needed

Above: Firefighters survey the scene where a crane tipped over, damaging a house in the Baldwin Park neighborhood of Orlando, Fla., on Tuesday. Right: The truck carrying the crane is tipped over. Officials did not say what caused the crane to overturn.

PHOTOS BY THE ORLANDO FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP



to use the phone at the home and then tried to force her way inside before fleeing. She was allegedly intoxicated.

## Public library turns away donations

**TN** ELIZABETHTON — A public library in Tennessee has received so many books recently that it has begun turning away donations.

Renita Barksdale, director of the Elizabethton/Carter County Public Library, told the Johnson City Press the library has had to rent two storage spaces to hold recent donations. Barksdale said even the storage spaces are "filled to the brim."

The library said it will hold a book sale this month and may then start accepting donations again.

## Officials: Moonshine operation shut down

**MS** KILN — Officials said they've shut down a large moonshine operation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

WLOX-TV reported that agents with the Alcoholic Beverage Control division of the state Department of Revenue are questioning someone but haven't made any arrests related to the Kiln still.

Possession of untaxed whiskey is a misdemeanor in Mississippi, while distilling is a felony.

Agent Kurt Alexander said agents found 20 barrels of fermenting mash, four 55-gallon drums of moonshine and 75 1-gallon jugs of moonshine.

Alexander said moonshine sells for about \$20 per gallon on the

Gulf Coast, while it can fetch as much as \$50 a gallon elsewhere.

## Couple officially marries 36 years after wedding

**HI** KAILUA-KONA — A Big Island couple who believed they were married 36 years ago officially tied the knot after learning of a documentation mix-up.

West Hawaii Today reported Randy and Leigh Mitchell were legally married at the Kealahou courthouse last week, though their first wedding was in February 1982.

The couple learned two years ago that their marriage license was never filed at the time of their wedding in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Leigh Mitchell discovered the

## THE CENSUS



**13** The number of years that ruby slippers used in "The Wizard of Oz" were missing after they were stolen

from a Minnesota museum. The slippers were on loan to the Judy Garland Museum in the late actress' hometown of Grand Rapids when they were taken in 2005. The shoes were insured for \$1 million. The FBI said a man approached the insurer in summer 2017 and said he could help get them back. Grand Rapids police asked for the FBI's help, and after a nearly yearlong investigation the slippers were recovered in July during a sting operation in Minneapolis.

mistake when she tried to renew her driver's license, which required her marriage license to show her name change.

## Tree falls, causes car to flip and land in lake

**NH** ALEXANDRIA — Police in New Hampshire said a tree that fell on a road caused a driver's car to flip and land upside down in a lake.

WMUR-TV reported Richard Abbene, of Hebron, wasn't seriously injured Tuesday.

He said he was traveling about 20 mph around a sharp curve in Alexandria just before he found himself upside down in Newfound Lake.

He said he didn't know that a tree had fallen on his car until first responders told him.

Abbene's wife, Kathleen, said it's lucky that her husband hates air conditioning, because he had rolled his window down. That allowed him to climb out of his car.

## Stolen M&M character statues returned

**NJ** HOLMDEL — Two statues of M&M candy characters that were stolen from a children's concert in New Jersey last month have been returned unharmed.

State police had issued a tongue-in-cheek all-points bulletin for the 3-foot-tall statues after they were taken Aug. 20 from the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel.

Officials noted they were "fairly certain" the statues didn't melt like chocolate.

In a Facebook post Monday, state police said that Mr. Red and Mr. Yellow M&M characters were "reunited with their twin siblings" at the arts center on Saturday. Details on where and how they were found were not disclosed.

Officials said the investigation was resolved "without the need for an arrest — a very sweet conclusion."

From wire reports

# Welcome to the neighborhood.



You rely on your military community  
when you're far from home.

We get that.

Use our community sites to connect and share during  
your time overseas. With base information, travel tips,  
restaurant reviews and even the score of your son's  
high school basketball game, we've got you covered.

Stay connected and hey,  
welcome to the neighborhood.

Visit one of our community sites today!

**Stripes GUAM**  
GUAM.STRIPES.COM

**Stripes OKINAWA**  
OKINAWA.STRIPES.COM

**Stripes KOREA**  
KOREA.STRIPES.COM

**Stripes JAPAN**  
JAPAN.STRIPES.COM

**Stripes EUROPE**  
EUROPE.STRIPES.COM



## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Starbucks debuts in Italy with Milan store

Associated Press

MILAN — Starbucks is opening its first store in Italy, betting that premium brews and novelities like a heated marble-topped coffee bar will win customers in a country fond of its daily espresso rituals.

Decades ago, Milan's coffee bars inspired the chain's vision. Now Starbucks is hoping clients will visit its new store, called the Reserve Roastery, to watch beans being roasted, sip coffee or enjoy cocktails at a mezzanine-level bar in a cavernous, former post office near the city's Duomo, or cathedral.

Starbucks chief design officer Liz Muller told The Associated Press earlier this week that the company's "not coming to Italy to teach people about coffee. This is where coffee was born."

Instead, Muller said, Starbucks "wanted to come and bring a premium experience that is different to what people in Italy are used to."

She described that formula as including "many different brewing techniques and a space where we want you to stay longer and relax and enjoy."

In Italy, an espresso at a coffee bar is usually a quick morning



LUCA BRUNO/AP

The Starbucks in Milan, Italy, features premium brews and a heated coffee bar.

or after-lunch ritual performed standing up. In many neighborhoods, cafes are practically on every corner, and Italians are on a first-name basis with their trusted barista.

Italy is Starbucks' 78th global market, and the Milan opening comes 20 years after Starbucks opened its first store in Europe, in London. The company has described the Milan store as "the

crown jewel of Starbucks global retail footprint." It says it plans more cafes for Milan later this year.

Milan is the first where Starbucks has opened a store in

its Roastery format in untested territory. It opened a Roastery in Seattle, the U.S. city that is home to its corporate headquarters, in 2014 and a second one in Shanghai last year.

Italians are used to marble counters for coffee bars, but Starbucks boasts that it outfitted its counter tops in the Milan store with heating so they won't feel stone cold on chilly days. The centerpiece of the Milan store is a 22-foot-high bronze cask, part of the roasting process.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 7)	\$1.1946
Dollar buys (Sept. 7)	€0.8371
British pound (Sept. 7)	\$1.33
Japanese yen (Sept. 7)	109.00
South Korean won (Sept. 7)	1,090.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2949
Canada (Dollar)	1.3192
China Yuan	6.8276
Denmark (Krone)	6.4066
Egypt (Pound)	17.9298
Euro	\$1.1639/0.8592
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499
Hungary (Forint)	260.31
Israel (Shekel)	3.5876
Japan (Yen)	111.16
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3028
Norway (Krone)	8.4094
Philippines (Peso)	53.93
Poland (Zloty)	3.71
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7512
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3750
South Korea (Won)	1,121.72
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9684
Thailand (Baht)	32.79
Turkey (New Lira)	6.5854

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	.32
3-month bill	2.095
30-year bond	3.07

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.113	\$3.464	\$3.705	\$3.541
Netherlands	-0.3 cents	-0.1 cents	+0.4 cents	+2.6 cents
Change in price	--	+1.1 cents	+0.5 cents	+4.0 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.409	\$3.650	\$3.486
Change in price	--	-0.1 cents	+0.4 cents	+2.6 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.648	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.4 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.191	\$3.479	\$3.39
Change in price	--	-2.3 cents	+0.2 cents	+5.0 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$3.526	\$3.362*
Change in price	--	--	+0.4 cents	+2.6 cents
Italy	--	\$4.127	--	\$4.202
Change in price	--	-3.6 cents	--	-3.7 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.449	--	\$3.289
Change in price	--	No change	--	+3.0 cents
Okinawa	--	\$2.859	--	\$3.289
Change in price	--	No change	--	+3.0 cents
South Korea	--	\$2.899	--	\$3.489
Change in price	--	+1.0 cent	--	+2.0 cents
Guam	--	\$2.889**	\$3.239	\$3.479
Change in price	--	No change	No change	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Sept. 8-14

## MARKET WATCH

Sept. 5, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	22.51
Nasdaq composite	-96.07
Standard & Poor's 500	-8.12
Russell 2000	-5.73

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

## FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



## FRIDAY IN EUROPE



## SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# WEEKEND



## REDFORD PULLS ONE LAST JOB

Page 25

## FALL

Movies • Books • TV

## PREVIEW

Netflix unleashing wave of prestige films **Page 24**

The season's must-read titles **Page 38**

New shows coming to AFN **Page 39**

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



ANTONIO PEREZ, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

**Cillian Rhodes, left, and Shayaan Cleaver work on computers Aug. 23 at Codeverse, a camp for kids in Chicago.**

## Camp teaches kids how to code

By ALLY MAROTTI  
Chicago Tribune

Eight-year-old Cillian Rhodes was hosting a dance party.

He hacked the concert lights in the small, dark room, making them flash and move around. Another kid bounced around next to him.

"I control all the lights now," Cillian said, tapping the screen of his iPad and looking toward the lights on the ceiling. As he changed the colors, the lights flashed across his face and lit up his spiky blond hair. "I can make it red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet."

Cillian was learning to code. Armed with an iPad and kid-specific coding language, he and the roughly 30 other 6- to 12-year-olds attending camp at Codeverse Lincoln Park learned to create games and control the TVs, speakers and robotic arms in the space. The coding studio, which opened a year ago in the Goose Island neighborhood and just raised \$10 million from investors including Chicago-based venture capital firm Listen Ventures, is set to expand to the north and west suburbs.

Coding has been gaining prominence in schools throughout the Chicago area in recent years as educators and tech companies stress the importance of the skill

for the future workforce. Chicago Public Schools has made taking at least one credit of computer science a graduation requirement, starting with the class of 2020. Apple has teamed up with CPS and City Colleges of Chicago to offer its free coding curriculum to teachers.

After-school boot camps and coding clubs have also been springing up. Another kids coding franchise, Code Ninja, is eyeing expansion in the Chicago area, and national nonprofit Girls Who Code is also active in the area.

Still, Codeverse co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer Katy Lynch said "kids are not getting enough of it." That's especially true for younger children, who might struggle with some of the more complicated concepts of learning a programming language. To help with that, Codeverse developed its own coding language for children, called KidScript.

"When you look at the world of coding today, the things you think about are the adult languages that exist," Lynch said. "The issue with those languages is that they're pretty advanced. You'd never be able to sit a 6-year-old in front of Python and say, 'OK, learn it.'"

Eventually, Codeverse plans to expand nationally and offer KidScript as a standalone service.

**ON THE COVER: Robert Redford stars in "The Old Man & the Gun."**

Illustration, based on Fox Searchlight photo, by Sean Moors/Stars and Stripes

## GADGET WATCH

# Reverse umbrella won't get you all wet

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

We finally had rain. I say this for two reasons; first, I live in Texas and we needed some rain this summer. The second is I got a chance to try the UnbelievaBrella reverse umbrella.

For the most part, it looks like an umbrella and works like an umbrella, but the fun and innovation starts when the rain stops. The UnbelievaBrella is built with reverse technology, allowing you to walk in the house right after the storm and not have the umbrella drip all over the house.

The technology reverses the umbrella when you close it. Instead of what happens when you close a standard umbrella — push the inside up and all the water drips down on you — with the UnbelievaBrella you pull the inside down, causing the umbrella to act as a funnel holding all the water.

When it's in a place you can dry it, flip it over to have the water drip out of the funnel side.

It's well-made with an easy-to-hold, rubber-coated C-shaped handle with steel and fiberglass construction.

When open, you get 48 inches of coverage and when the sun is out, it folds to 36.5 inches to easily store in a car or closet. The outer canopy is black when open and the inner comes in choices of six colors: hot pink, sour apple (green), red, charcoal, black and ocean (blue).

Online: shedrain.com; \$20



SOUNDCAST/TNS

**The Soundcast VG1 Bluetooth speaker has a long-lasting rechargeable battery good for up to 15 hours of playback.**

The Soundcast VG1 Bluetooth speaker is ready to blast your sound poolside or in a dorm room. This portable device has been out a little while (sorry — it got buried in my closet), but it's worth hearing about.

You'll get really strong and clear sound from the speaker (6.8-by-2.3-by-2.9 inches, 1 pound), which is weather-resistant (not waterproof), dust-, drop- and shockproof. Inside is what the company calls a unique down-firing weighted bass radiator, along with premium, 2-inch aluminum drivers with powerful neodymium magnets.

What it means to you is that the speaker sounds great, is party ready, and can withstand the elements of various degrees of the weather.

If you want to plug your music in, there's a 3.5 mm aux port. A speakerphone will keep your call hands-free for everyone to hear, and Siri is accessible.

Two speakers are even better than one. They sync with dedicated right and left playback with Bluetooth True Wireless Stereo.

Inside is a long-lasting rechargeable battery for up to 15 hours of playback; the included lanyard attaches directly to the speaker and onboard controls are there for volume, play and pause. Online: gousoundcast.com; \$134.86

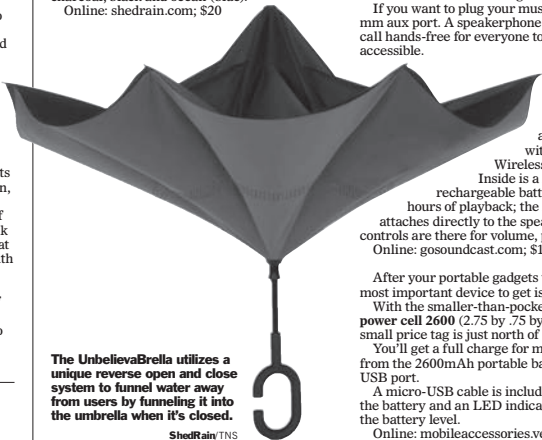
After your portable gadgets themselves, the most important device to get is portable power.

With the smaller-than-pocket-sized Vevent power cell 2600 (2.75 by .75 by 1.37 inches), the small price tag is just north of \$20.

You'll get a full charge for most smartphones from the 2600mAh portable battery's single USB port.

A micro-USB cable is included for charging the battery and an LED indicator light shows the battery level.

Online: mobileaccessories.ventev.com; \$23.92



**The UnbelievaBrella utilizes a unique reverse open and close system to funnel water away from users by funneling it into the umbrella when it's closed.**

ShedRain/TNS

## ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes for the week ending Aug. 30:

1. "Like It," Cardi B, Bad Bunny & J Balvin
2. "Girls Like You" (feat. Cardi B), Maroon 5
3. "In My Feelings," Drake
4. "Natural," Imagine Dragons
5. "IDOL," BTS
6. "You Say," Lauren Daigle
7. "Better Now," Post Malone
8. "Youngblood," 5 Seconds of Summer
9. "IDOL" (feat. Nicki Minaj), BTS
10. "God is a woman," Ariana Grande

— Compiled by AP

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify for the week ending Sept. 4:

1. "Lucky You" (feat. Joyner Lucas), Eminem
2. "The Finger," Eminem
3. "In My Feelings," Drake
4. "Easides" (with Halsey and Khalid), benny blanco
5. "Girls Like You" (feat. Cardi B), Maroon 5
6. "Greatest," Eminem
7. "FEFE" (feat. Nicki Minaj & Murda Beatz), 6ix9ine
8. "SICKO MODE," Travis Scott
9. "Not Alike" (feat. Royce Da 5/9), Eminem
10. "In My Mind," Dyrnoy

— Compiled by Stars & Stripes

## ITUNES MOVIES BOOKS

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending Sept. 2:

1. "Tag"
2. "Deadpool 2"
3. "Book Club"
4. "Avengers: Infinity War"
5. "Upgrade"
6. "Ocean's 8"
7. "The Party"
8. "Forever My Girl"
9. "Ready Player One"
10. "Active Measures"



— Compiled by AP

## APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending Sept. 2:

1. Minecraft
2. Heads Up!
3. Plague Inc.
4. Donut County
5. Bloons TD 6
6. PlantSnap Plant Identification
7. Schedule
8. Geometry Dash
10. Sky Guide

— Compiled by AP



## WEEKEND

## CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

**'The Purge' concept jumps to TV show**

The arrival of "The Purge" in TV form raises so many questions: Does this mean viewers can binge on "Purge"? Does what goes down on the show constitute "Purge-ory"? More seriously, how closely will this show follow the formula of the film franchise?

For those unfamiliar, "The Purge" takes place in a near-future United States ruled by a totalitarian government. The New Founding Fathers of America has decreed a holiday called the Purge, a no-holds-barred carnival in which everything is "legal" for 12 hours. For reasons that don't make sense or take human nature into account, this sanctified crime spree is meant to lead to high employment and low crime rates. How this plays out over the course of the 10-episode series is unclear. As usual, you'll have to tune in to find out.

• The series premiere of 'The Purge' airs Friday on AFN-Spectrum.



USA Network photos

The cast of TV's "The Purge" includes Lee Tergesen (left), Gabriel Chavarria (upper right) and many freaky costumed Purgers.

2

**'Peppermint' = Garner with guns**

Jennifer Garner's played the sweet, long-suffering mom in so many films, it can be hard to remember her butt-kicking "Alias" and "Daredevil" days. Garner returns to her vigilante roots this week in "Peppermint," a movie about a mom (but wait!) who seeks revenge (yesss!) after the thugs who killed her husband and daughter go free. If you've longed to see Garner get violent with guns once again, this outing fits the bill.

• Movie reviews on Page 26.

3

**'Donut County' a hole lotta fun**

In the game "Donut County" — No. 4 on Apple's apps list, and available on PCs as well — players solve puzzles and consume stuff via a hole in the ground that grows as they eat. The main character, BK, a raccoon, eventually falls into his own hole and is confronted by those whose lives he ruined. There are lessons about gentrification to be learned, but if all you're after is a good time, you'll find that, too.

• Video game review on Page 35.



STX Films

Jennifer Garner is one mad momma in "Peppermint."

# WEEKEND: FALL MOVIE PREVIEW

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

The frustratingly long wait for Tamara Jenkins' follow-up to her 2007 Oscar-nominated film, "The Savages," seemed to finally be coming to end. She had spent two years on the script to "Private Life," and secured Kathryn Hahn and Paul Giamatti to star as a middle-aged New York couple navigating the medical and emotional gantlet of assisted reproduction. But just when the production was ready to go, the company that had developed it, Amazon Studios, stepped back, leaving Jenkins in the lurch.

Enter Netflix.  
"I think 'swooped' would be the perfect word. They saved it," says Jenkins, the 56-year-old filmmaker of "The Slums of Beverly Hills." "I was scared. I thought we're going to blow it. We were going to miss the window. And then Netflix said, 'We'll do it,' and they said it incredibly fast."

Jenkins' "Private Life," premiering Oct. 5, is part of what may be the most extensive fall movie slate any studio has ever put together. Between September and Christmas, Netflix will release at least 25 films, many of them by the most sought-after filmmakers in Hollywood.

Among them: Nicole Holofcener's midlife crisis drama "The Land of Steady Habits" and Alfonso Cuarón's "Gravity" follow-up, "Roma."

A year after "Mudbound" became Netflix's biggest Oscar contender yet, the streaming giant's programming push (it's spending some \$8 billion in 2018) is heading into this year's awards season with a wave of prestige and genre-movie reinforcements. Whether the Netflix tide will roll all the way into the Academy Awards remains to be seen. (Some, like Steven Spielberg, have suggested Netflix films, with their small, tight theatrical releases, are more like TV movies and should qualify for the Emmys, not the Oscars.)

But regardless, the Netflix powerhouse fall lineup would be the envy of most any studio. It's a significant surge for a company with an up-and-down record in terms of the quality of its original films. (See: "Bright," "War Machine" or any of the Adam Sandler movies.) And though critics have claimed Netflix releases can get lost in its sea of programming options, it will be hard to miss the Netflix movies this fall. There will be six Netflix films at the Venice Film Festival and eight at the Toronto International Film Festival.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NETFLIX/AP

"Private Life," left, "Roma," top, and "The Land of Steady Habits," above, are premiering this fall on Netflix.

## THE NETFLIX TIDE

### In a prestige movie wave, streaming giant will release at least 25 new films this fall

"I usually turn it on its head and say: Look, movies are found on Netflix," says Ian Bricke, co-head of Netflix's indie film division. "And it's certainly important for us, too, that these movies are in the culture." "Private Life" was at Sundance, will be at the New York Film Festival, will be in theaters. It will be written about and experienced and talked about in a way that any other film would be, and can reach potentially, over a very short period of time, a really meaningful audience all over the world. To me, that's the best of both worlds."

Cuarón's much-anticipated "Roma" had been headed for Cannes. But after Netflix pulled its films from the French festival after Cannes ruled them out from the main competition, "Roma" will instead hit the Venice, Toronto and the New York festivals before arriving on Netflix in December.

Like Jenkins' "Private Life," Cuarón's deeply personal film, about the Mexico City neighborhood of his youth, was never going to be an easy sell to distributors. Netflix, where original films are typically watched by millions, meant a global release far beyond the art house. Cuarón calls Netflix's support of "Roma" "unprecedented."

"The specialized film, the so-called foreign film market nowadays is very challenging, and sometimes their resources are limited," says Cuarón. "Netflix fully believes in the film, and they understand these kinds of films can have a huge audience... I'm really, really grateful for them."

Both "Private Life" and Holofcener's "The Land of Steady Habits" were abandoned in development elsewhere when they were picked up by Bricke and his fellow indie co-head Matt Levin. Without consulting content chief Ted Sarandos, they can

greenlight anything with a budget under \$10 million.

"We have a business model and an appetite for creative risk that's not unique but is relatively scarce," says Bricke. "When a Charlie Kauffman or a Tamara Jenkins or a Nicole Holofcener comes around, it's pretty easy for us to jump in with them."

Holofcener's film stars Ben Mendelsohn as Anders Hill, a Connecticut man who has left his wife (Edie Falco), quit his job in finance and begun acting recklessly. Based on Ted Thompson's novel, it's the first adaptation for Holofcener, the writer-director of "Enough Said" and "Friends With Money."

"I absolutely identify with him, as a parent, as a divorced parent, who inevitably is going to make mistakes," says Holofcener. "I like to think I don't make such serious mistakes or catastrophic mistakes as Anders makes. But we're all so flawed and stumbling along on our own and trying to be role models for our kids. They go whatever way they want, and we can't control them. It's scary. I relate to that in him. I'm nicer than he is, I like to think, and not as screwed up. But that's what makes a good movie, right?"

## A look ahead

With fall just weeks away and with it the start of the holiday season, here's a preview of films coming to theaters through Dec. 19.



### SEPTEMBER

**"The Predator"** (Sept. 14)  
Shane Black's fourth installment in "The Predator" films, with Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes and Jacob Tremblay.

**"The Land of Steady Habits"** (Sept. 14)  
Ben Mendelsohn stars as a Connecticut divorcee in midlife crisis in Nicole Holofcener's adaptation of Ted Thompson's 2014 novel.

**"White Boy Rick"** (Sept. 14)  
Yann Demange's 1980s true-life tale about the youngest alleged FBI informant ever, with Matthew McConaughey.

**"The House with a Clock in Its Walls"** (Sept. 21)  
A fantasy of witches and warlocks, starring Jack Black and Cate Blanchett. Directed by Eli Roth.

### "The Sisters Brothers"

(Sept. 21)  
Joaquin Phoenix and John C. Reilly play brother assassins in Jacques Audiard's Western.

**"Night School"** (Sept. 28)  
Kevin Hart plays the student and Tiffany Haddish the teacher in this GED comedy.

**"Smallfoot"** (Sept. 28)  
An inverted animated fable where a Yeti is convinced that humans exist.

**"The Old Man & the Gun"** (Sept. 28)  
Robert Redford stars as an aged bank robber in David Lowery's based-on-a-true-story heist movie.

**Also playing:**  
"A Simple Favor" (Sept. 14), "Fahrenheit 11/9" (Sept. 21), "Life Itself" (Sept. 21), "Hell Fest" (Sept. 28), "Hold the Dark" (Sept. 28)

### OCTOBER

**"Venom"** (Oct. 5)  
Tom Hardy stars as the Marvel antihero who originated in comics as a Spider-Man villain.

**"Private Life"** (Oct. 5)  
Paul Giamatti and Kathryn Hahn play a New York couple navigating assisted reproduction in Tamara Jenkins' semi-autobiographical tale.

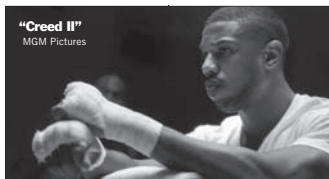
**"A Star Is Born"** (Oct. 5)  
Bradley Cooper's directorial debut is a remake of the 1937 film, starring himself and Lady Gaga.

**"First Man"** (Oct. 12)  
Ryan Gosling stars in Damien Chazelle's dramatization of the first manned mission to the moon, focusing on Neil Armstrong and the decade leading to the Apollo 11 flight.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



## WEEKEND: FALL MOVIE PREVIEW



**"Creed II"**  
MGM Pictures

**FROM PAGE 24**

**"Beautiful Boy"** (Oct. 12) Steve Carell and Timothee Chalamet play father and son in this adaptation of David and Nic Sheff's memoirs about addiction.

**"Halloween"** (Oct. 19) Michael Myers returns in David Gordon Green's installment of the long-running horror franchise.

**"Can You Forgive Me?"** (Oct. 19) Marielle Heller directs Melissa McCarthy in this story about a struggling writer who resorts to forging famous letters.

**Also playing**

**"The Happy Prince"** (Oct. 5), **"22 July"** (Oct. 10), **"Bad Times at the El Royale"** (Oct. 12), **"The Hate U Give"** (Oct. 19), **"Johnny English Strikes Again"** (Oct. 26)

**NOVEMBER**

**"Nobody's Fool"** (Nov. 2) Tiffany Haddish and Tika Sumpter play sisters in Tyler Perry's comedy.

**"Bohemian Rhapsody"** (Nov. 2)

A biopic of Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, from director Bryan Singer.

**"The Nutcracker and the Four Realms"** (Nov. 2) Disney's lavish live-action fantasy is inspired by E.T.A. Hoffmann's original story.

**"The Front Runner"** (Nov. 7) Jason Reitman's film is about Gary Hart's scandal-plagued 1988 presidential campaign, with Hugh Jackman.

**"The Girl in the Spider's Web"** (Nov. 9)

A reboot of the Lisbeth Salander thriller, from the fourth book in the series, with Claire Foy taking over for Rooney Mara.



**"Mary Poppins Returns"**  
Disney

**"Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald"** (Nov. 16) The second installment in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter prequels, with Johnny Depp as Gellert Grindelwald.

**"Widows"** (Nov. 16) Steve McQueen's "12 Years a Slave" follow-up is a heist movie, where the job in question is carried out by the widows of four slain thieves.

**"Creed II"** (Nov. 21) Michael B. Jordan returns as the young Adonis Creed to fight the son of Ivan Drago.

**"The Favourite"** (Nov. 23) Yorgos Lanthimos' drama is about two cousins (Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz) courting the favor of Queen Anne in 18th-century England.

**Also playing:**

**"Boy Erased"** (Nov. 2), **"Outlaw King"** (Nov. 9), **"The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"** (Nov. 16), **"Green Book"** (Nov. 21), **"Shoplifters"** (Nov. 23), **"If Beale Street Could Talk"** (Nov. 30)

**DECEMBER**

**"Mary Queen of Scots"** (Dec. 7)

Saoirse Ronan stars as the Scottish monarch Mary Stuart and Margot Robbie as her half-sister Queen Elizabeth I.

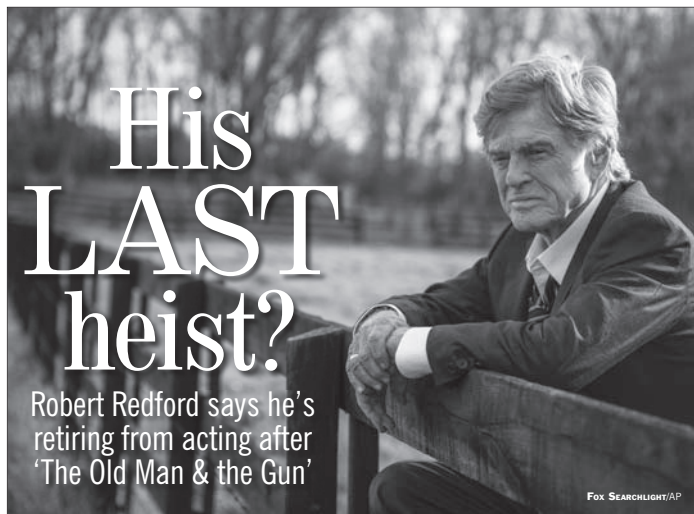
**"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"** (Dec. 14) Parallel dimension Spider-Man collide in an animated alternate reality.

**"Mary Poppins Returns"** (Dec. 19) — Rob Marshall's sequel to the 1964 original stars Emily Blunt as the magical nanny.

**Also playing:**

**"Ben Is Back"** (Dec. 7), **"Under the Silver Lake"** (Dec. 7), **"Mortal Engines"** (Dec. 14)

Richmond Times-Dispatch



# His LAST heist?

Robert Redford says he's retiring from acting after 'The Old Man & the Gun'

BY JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

In "The Old Man & the Gun," the elderly bank robber Forrest Tucker, played by Robert Redford, walks up to a bank teller, smiles, says a few words in a kindly manner, and collects a heap of money. Later when the teller is interviewed by the police, she'll sound a little bewildered describing the encounter. "He was a gentleman."

Redford, now 82, has for six decades been leaving us similarly charmed. Who wouldn't hand over whatever Robert Redford asked for? But David Lowery's "The Old Man & the Gun" seems to be his last heist.

Redford has said the movie, which Fox Searchlight will release Sept. 28, will be his final one as an actor. The news, with palpable affection, ricocheted around the world.

"I didn't expect that kind of response," Redford chuckles, speaking by phone from his house in Santa Fe. "Now I can't say I was just kidding!"

"But I did say 'Never say never,'" he adds, giving himself an out. "I just figure that I've had a long career that I'm very pleased with. It's been so long, ever since I was 21. I figure now as I'm getting into my 80s, it's maybe time to move toward retirement and spend more time with my wife and family."

That Redford might be hanging it up has the unmistakable feel of an era passing. For many, his face — from sandy-haired California boy to weathered mountain man — has charted half a century of something intrinsically American. His Sundance Kid, his Jeremiah Johnson, his Bob Woodward are figures of rigorous self-determination. From the young C.I.A. agent in "Three Days of the Condor" to the aged sailor in "All Is Lost," they are smooth-sailing romantics whose quiet ways are violently capsize.

"For me, the word to be underscored is 'independence,'" says Redford. "I've always believed in that word. That's what led me to eventually wanting to create a category that supported independent artists who weren't given a chance to be heard. The industry was pretty well controlled by the mainstream, which I was a part of. But I saw other stories out there that weren't having a chance to be told and I thought, 'Well, maybe I can commit my energies to giving those people a chance.' As I look back on it, I feel very good about that."

It was through the Sundance Institute, the nonprofit he founded in 1981 for independent filmmaking that Redford met

Lowery, the 37-year-old director. Shortly after Lowery's "Ain't Them Bodies Saints" premiered at Sundance, he met with Redford, who expressed his interest in making a movie based on Tucker, a lifelong stickup man and prison escapee whom David Grann profiled in the New Yorker.

Lowery then wrote a script that became "The Old Man & the Gun." It wasn't until shortly before shooting that his phone lit up after Redford, in an interview, suggested this might be his last movie.

"My first thought was, boy, pressure's on. My second thought was that I needed to completely ignore that pressure and not let it influence the movie. I actively worked against it feeling like grand summation," says Lowery. "But I did want to tap into what makes Robert Redford a movie star and acknowledge where he came from and what he's done. It wasn't meant to be a swan song, but if it winds up being a bookend, hopefully it's a fitting one."

And as a capstone for Redford, the 70s-set "The Old Man & the Gun" is indeed poignant. It bears much of the spirit and twinkle of some Redford classics, like "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting," only as filtered through Lowery's lyrical naturalism. And Redford is again on the other side of the law.

"The idea of the outlaw has always been very appealing to me. If you look at some of the films, it's usually having to do with the outlaw sensibility, which I think has probably been my sensibility. I think I was just born with it," says Redford. "From the time I was just a kid, I was always trying to break free of the bounds that I was stuck with, and always wanted to go outside."

In the film, Redford's partners are played by Danny Glover and Tom Waits; Sissy Spacek plays the love interest of the smitten Tucker; and Casey Affleck plays the police detective pursuing Tucker even as his esteem for the bank robber grows. Redford has kind words for them all, but especially for Affleck. "I think the world of him," says Redford. "I just think he's a really special, talented guy."

Redford still has hopes of directing one or two more films, but he likes the idea of going out as an actor with an upbeat movie. Many have compared today's White House investigation to Watergate, which he so memorably chronicled in "All the President's Men." Redford still loves talking about the film, like the light-and-dark interplay by cinematographer Gordon Willis. "There were no shadows in the newsroom," he says. "Once you leave that newsroom, you step into darkness."

But as to any relation to today, he demurs. "I try not to think about today's politics," says Redford. "Otherwise you get too depressed."

I've had a long career that I'm very pleased with. ... I figure now as I'm getting into my 80s, it's maybe time to move toward retirement.



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

'Peppermint'

## Garner is fun to watch in action-thriller

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

How to revive a movie star's flagging career? Take up guns, obviously. Following in the time-honored tradition of "Taken," "John Wick," "Atomic Blonde" and "Death Wish," Jennifer Garner arms up in the vigilante mom action-thriller "Peppermint." That's both literally and figuratively, as Garner sports some seriously sinewy shoulders — Garner's guns come in both the semi-automatic and bicep variety.

But while it's fun to watch Garner return to her action roots, the brute force haymaker that is "Peppermint" is a far cry from the sophisticated thrills of "Alias." Directed by "Taken" helmer Pierre Morel, written by "London Has Fallen" screenwriter Chad St. John, what distinguishes "Peppermint" from every other vigilante shoot-'em-up is that this time, our hero is a mom. Motherhood defines who she is and what she does, which is both her strength and her weakness, and often,

it's somewhat limiting. But just because the vigilante happens to be America's PTA mom, Garner doesn't make the wanton displays of unchecked violence any less icky.

Garner is Riley North, a lower-middle-class Los Angeles bank teller with a family struggling to make ends meet. Her husband, Chris (Jeff Hephner), a mechanic, entertains the idea of driving the getaway vehicle in the robbery of a powerful drug dealer, Diego Garcia (Juan Pablo Raba), which earns a hit on his name. Chris and their daughter, Carly (Cailey Fleming), are gunned down in front of Riley, at a Christmas carnival no less. When the thugs walk, thanks to a corrupt judge and lawyer, she disappears, only to pop up five years later. Those who wronged her start turning up dead, too.

In "Peppermint," Riley takes up the tools of the oppressors to enact her revenge, methodically tracking everyone who denied her justice while working her way to Garcia. She brutalizes men for their behavior, and there is a frisson of feminine rage that



STX FILMS/AP

A woman who loses her husband and daughter in a drive-by gang shooting (Jennifer Garner) seeks to avenge their deaths in "Peppermint." Co-starring Jeff Hylan, left.

electrifies the otherwise dull proceedings. But is it empowering? Hardly. There is some small satisfaction in watching her torture the judge, a representative of state institutions who failed her family (and likely many others). But mostly you wonder, why stoop to their level?

The trailer for "Peppermint" garnered rightful criticism for what looked to be distressingly problematic representations of Latinos as drug-dealing, face-tatted thugs stalking white families, and the film unfortunately delivers that. "Peppermint" does exist in a realistically diverse Los Angeles, but it relies on tired,

xenophobic gang stereotypes as fodder for Riley's murderous maternal rage. She eradicates crime on Skid Row while defending homeless kids and threatens an alcoholic man into cleaning up his act for his son, but that reverence for human life is not extended to any of the men she shoots at point-blank range with large-caliber weapons. Hollywood made some important strides in representation this year, but in that regard, "Peppermint" feels like a relic from another era.

The issue is that Riley doesn't think big enough. The low-level gangsters aren't her enemy. Her

true enemy is a system of income inequality driven by hyper-capitalism, and the myth of the achievable American dream that would push her husband to even consider committing a robbery. She gets a small bit of comeuppance at the 1 percenters when she tortures a snobby rich mom who used to torment her, but that's not even her real nemesis. Why doesn't Riley go after the bank that overworked and underpaid her? Unfortunately Riley, and by extension "Peppermint," just doesn't get it.

"Peppermint" is rated R for strong violence and language throughout. Running time: 102 minutes.

## In 'The Nun,' what evil lurks beneath a habit

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

As frightening as the "The Nun" is, it doesn't hold a candle to today's real-life horrors in the Catholic Church.

But while a new generation of filmmakers has breathed new life into horror by embedding it with frightful and salient social commentary, "The Conjuring" franchise — of which "The Nun" is a spinoff and the fifth installment — isn't about anything so real. It's about exhuming classic horror archetypes — creaky old houses and creepy old dolls — with (mostly) old-school effects. And what's more old school than a mean of 'nuns?

Set in 1952, "The Nun" is the origin story of Valak (Bonnie Aarons), a demonic nun who first turned up in "The Conjuring 2," as the pursuit of Vera Farmiga's paranormal expert. This time, our protagonist is Sister Irene (played by Vera's younger sister, Taissa Farmiga), a novice who, just before her vows, is dispatched by the Vatican, along with Father Burke (Demian Bichir), an expert in unexplained phenomena, to a remote Romanian abbey where a young nun has just hung herself.

The decaying, overgrown abbey and its adjoining covenant are suitably eerie. The place, handsomely crafted by production designer Jennifer Spence, has the feel of a horror-movie set, complete with a foggy cemetery, and the action that follows has the almost comforting pattern of surprises and scares that's to be expected. Entering the gothic world of "The Nun," built so sturdily on horror movie clichés, is to slide into a



darkly fantastical realm that's so familiar, it's practically cozy.

Crypts will turn into traps, apparitions will flicker in the mirrors and ancient Christian dogma will be used for all its sinister power. Certainly, anyone who goes anywhere at any time clutching a lantern will run into trouble.

But what distinguishes "The Nun" is its silky, sumptuous shadows. Directed by British filmmaker Corin Hardy ("The Hollows") and shot by Maxime Alexandre (who was also cinematographer on the "Conjuring" spinoff "Annabelle: Creation"), "The Nun" shrouds itself so much in darkness that it at times verges on becoming a nightmarish abstraction. You almost lose sense of what exactly is going on as Sister Irene falls into a labyrinthine abyss.

The spell, of course, gets broken as the demands of plot and franchise return. And "The Nun" has little to offer beyond: Beware of spooky Romanian abbeys. But for a moment or two, it hangs suspended in a luxurious gloom, the kind that these days passes for a welcome escape.

"The Nun" is rated R for terror, violence and disturbing/bloody images. Running time: 96 minutes.

"The Nun," starring Taissa Farmiga, right, and Ingrid Bisu, is a spinoff of "The Conjuring" franchise.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP PHOTOS

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Above: The Chiesa di Santa Corona in Vicenza, Italy, is a municipal museum open most days of the week. Mass is celebrated there at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays. It was built in the 13th century to house a gift to the city's bishop from French King Louis IX. The gift, below, was purportedly a thorn from the crown of thorns Jesus was forced to wear in the events leading up to the crucifixion.



"Adoration of the Magi" in the Chiesa di Santa Corona was painted in 1580 by Paolo Veronese and is lushly colored and crowded with people, animals and divinities.



"The Baptism of Christ" by Giovanni Bellini dates to 1500 to 1502 and is considered the crown jewel of the paintings in the Chiesa di Santa Corona in Vicenza, Italy.

# Painted treasures

## Vicenza, Italy, church home to 2 masterpieces

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

Vicenza is off the beaten path for most tourists doing obligatory tours of grand basilicas and duomos in Milan, Florence, Siena and Rome. Yet the city has a couple of churches that, though more humble, are beautiful, culturally significant and contain masterpiece art.

One is the Santuario della Madonna di Monte Berico, standing on a hill above the city. It was built in the 15th century to ask Jesus' mother, Mary, to intercede with God to end the plague, which was killing a significant percentage of Vicenza's citizens.

The other is in the heart of the old town. The Chiesa di Santa Corona — the church of the holy crown — is older yet, dating to the 13th century, built in the Gothic style to house a relic — a thorn from Jesus' crown of thorns.

The thorn was provided by Louis IX, the only canonized king of France, who before he died of dysentery in the Crusades in 1270, was known for introducing the presumption of innocence into criminal proceedings, outlawing interest-bearing loans, burning Talmuds, and deciding that blasphemy would be punished by cutting off people's lips and tongues.

Inside the church's light-filled space are fabulous Renaissance paintings, a huge and gorgeous mosaic altar and the sound of Mozart or chanting monks playing softly, courtesy of the city's museum authority, which now runs it.

Among the church's treasures are two paintings made in the 1500s — Giovanni Bellini's masterpiece "The Baptism of Christ," and Paolo Veronese's "Adoration of the Magi." Nonreligious

non-art majors might not fully appreciate the Bellini painting. But anyone could delight in the rich colors and peaceful, happy scene Veronese painted, with children, dogs, horses, humans and a baby Jesus clearly irritated that a stranger is kissing his foot.

Both the architect Andreas Palladio and the Italian writer who produced the work on which Shakespeare based "Romeo and Juliet" are buried in the church. The thorn is still theoretically there, encased in a golden reliquary.

But there's a darker history as well. The church was the seat for the local Inquisition authority that sought to stamp out heretics, witches, Jews, non-believers and other perceived threats to the Catholic body.

The church was run by Dominicans, the order founded in the 13th century to preach against Christian "heresies" — defined as a deliberate denial of an article of truth of the Catholic faith — then tapped to be judges in various Inquisitions or trials, which spanned centuries throughout Europe and were notorious for torture — including "reverse hangings" that dislocated shoulders, foot roasting and waterboarding — and execution by burning.

The Spanish Inquisition lasted four centuries. The Roman Inquisition put Galileo on trial in 1633. Vicenza had its own Inquisitors. One of them, in 1749, wrote to officials in Rome to say he needed more funds for the continued imprisonment of two local men. One worked in a shop that made felt hats. The other worked in a typography shop. Both had been arrested for allegedly casting love spells using consecrated hosts.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com  
Twitter: @montgomerynancy

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Address is Contra Santa Corona 2, Vicenza, Italy 36100. There are parking lots nearby.

### TIMES

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, closed Monday. Mass celebrated 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

### COSTS

Entry is 3 euros (\$3.50). Prices are reduced for students and some other groups or by buying the city's museum card for 7 euros that also allows admittance to several other municipal museums. Tickets are available at Archaeological Naturalistic Museum next door to the church and at the office next to the Teatro Olimpico garden entrance.

### FOOD

Scores of cafes and restaurants are located within a two-minute walk.

### INFORMATION

(+39) 0444222855, vicenzae.org

— Nancy Montgomery

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## History lesson breathes life into France's abbeys

The French countryside is littered with medieval monasteries. Some are in a state of ruin; others are still home to peaceful monks or sisters going about their religious work. Still others are intact, but now open only as museums. A little history can help visitors breathe life into these serenely remote monuments.

Monasteries arose in Europe as refuges from the dark chaos that followed the collapse of the Roman Empire. While the Church hierarchy concerned itself with prestige and power, the monasteries kept the focus more on spiritual matters.

St. Benedict established the first great monastic order in 529, in Italy. The Benedictines distilled life down to its very basics: ora et labora—pray and work. Benedict's monastic movement spread north and took firm root in France. By 1100, the Benedictine abbey of Cluny (in Burgundy) controlled more than 1,000 dependent abbeys and lived with the pope for control of the Church.

Power corrupts—even Benedictine monks. The abbies grew rich, and some monks lost sight of their purpose, becoming soft and corrupt. Another order, the Cistercians, led by a determined and charismatic St. Bernard, took things back to basics. Cistercian monks lived in seclusion, built plain churches and celebrated manual labor. They supported themselves and their abbies through activities such as brewing ale, cultivating vine grapes and producing wool. These abbies were economic engines that helped drive France out of its Middle Age funk.

A major task of monastic life was copying and editing texts. The labor was tedious and boring, but these medieval copyists, among the few liter-

ate people in Europe, were essentially preserving Western civilization.

As France (and Europe) slowly got its act together in the late Middle Ages, cities reemerged as places to trade and thrive. Abbeys gradually lost their relevance in a brave new humanist world.

The French Revolution finally closed the book on monastic life, as the public



Rick Steves

rebelled against Church corruption. While many French abbies were destroyed, others survive—and continue to inspire thoughtful visitors. Here are the top ones for travelers:

**Mont St-Michel, Normandy:** For more than a thousand years, the silhouette of this marvelous island-abbey has sent the weary spirits of pilgrims and tourists soaring. Hermit-monks isolated themselves on the rocky island, surrounded by mudflats and the sea.

**Jimieges Abbey, Normandy:** This Benedictine abbey thrived for centuries—long enough to be leveled by Vikings in the 9th century, rebuilt by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, then destroyed again during the French Revolution. Today there's no roof, and many walls are missing. But what remains of the abbey's church is awe-inspiring, with its facade standing 160 feet high.

**Senanque Abbey, Provence:** A Cistercian spinoff, this beautifully situated monastery—surrounded by lavender fields—is still home to an active community of monks. It's best in late June through much



PAUL ORCUTT/Ricksteves.com

Monks at Senanque Abbey in Provence divide their day between prayer and work, which includes tending their perfect rows of lavender.

of July, when the lavender blooms. The abbey church is always open to visitors, and it's possible to join spiritual retreats.

**Fontevraud Royal Abbey, Loire Valley:** This 12th-century monastic city administered the 150 monasteries of the Fontevraud order. Fontevraud became a royal necropolis, where Eleanor of Aquitaine and Richard the Lionheart were interred.

**Cluny Abbey, Burgundy:** The building itself was destroyed during the Revolution, and there's little left to see today. But this Benedictine abbey was the ruling center of the first great international chain of monasteries in Europe.

**Fontenay Abbey, Burgundy:** St. Bernard founded this Cistercian abbey in 1118 as a back-to-basics response to the excesses of abbies like Cluny. The remote setting required the kind of industrious self-sufficiency we associate with monastic life. Blanketed in birdsong, Fontenay's gardens quiet the mind. The entire ensemble of buildings survives here, offering visitors perhaps the best picture of medieval monastic life in France.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Brussels' beer bash

The brewing and appreciation of great beer is deeply ingrained in Belgian society, so much so in fact that in 2016, the country's beer culture was inscribed on UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

A grand place to explore this phenomenon is Brussels' Grand-Place, a stunning square ensconced by ornate and gilded buildings that's a UNESCO landmark in its own right.

For three days at the start of September each year, The Belgian Beer Weekend transforms the striking space into a mecca for fans of the country's characteristic brews, as close to 60 brewers from across the land present their tasty creations. On Saturday, the historical side of brewing is celebrated as a procession of historical brewery carts and beer wagons winds through the city streets starting at 1:30 p.m., followed one hour later by a brewers' parade on the Grand-Place.

Sampling hours are 6 p.m.-9:45 p.m. Sept. 7, 11 a.m.-8:45 p.m. Sept. 8 and 11 a.m.-7:45 p.m. Sept. 9. The festival operates on a token system, with each beer costing a set number of tokens. Entry is free. As the event's a crowd-puller and space is tight, consider attending during off-peak hours. Online: belgian-brewers.be/en/evnts/belgian-beer-weekend-171



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

## Music and street art in Wuerzburg

Much of Wuerzburg's city center will be a stage Sept. 7-9 as STRAMU, a fest whose name refers to street musicians, brings the sounds of more than 200 artists from Germany and 17 other nations to Wuerzburg's scenic streets and squares. One of Europe's biggest festivals of its kind features artists playing in 25 venues across town.

Some performers are public favorites who regularly appear here; others will make their debut at the 15th edition of this fest. This year's newcomers include the Japanese Matsumoto Zoku band and its "urban sounds," a female singer/songwriter from New Zealand, among many others. Magicians, comedians and other street artists add

visual splendor to the diverse soundtrack.

A rather unique feature of the fest is its "Freiuler," which offers amateurs and professionals not officially part of the program the chance to perform. These folks will display their talents by the crane on the Main promenade on Saturday and Sunday.

Entry is free, but as is common at street festivals, the artists whose acts you enjoy should be rewarded in the form of tip money thrown into their hats. Online: stramu-wuerzburg.de

## World's biggest wine fest in Bad Duerkheim

The name says sausage, but the vibe's all wine at the annual bash known as the Duerkheimer Wuerstmarkt, considered the world's biggest wine fest.

What started off six centuries ago as a market catering to pilgrims now attracts at least half a million revelers, who come from far and wide to eat treats, ride, rides and sample the tasty wines, all of which are produced locally.

Wining and dining aren't the only experiences to await. One can purchase spices or a new broom, win a prize with the throw of a dart, or ascend high into the sky on a slingshot ride.

The fest runs Sept. 7-11, takes a breather, and goes in for a second round Sept. 14-17. Entry is free. Online: bad-duerkheim.com/duerkheimer-wuerstmarkt.html



LANDER LOECKX/Belgian Brewers

Belgian Beer Weekend in Brussels involves a brewers' parade along the city's beautiful Grand-Place.

## NFL in London tickets go on sale Sept. 10

Each year since 2007, the National Football League has staged regular-season American football games outside the U.S., many of them in London. The three games set to be played in London's Wembley Stadium as part of the 2018 series includes face-offs between the Seattle Seahawks and the Oakland Raiders on Oct. 14; the Tennessee Titans and the Los Angeles Chargers on Oct. 21; and the Philadelphia Eagles and the Jacksonville Jaguars on Oct. 28.

When season tickets for all three games went on sale in May, most were snapped up within a

single day. According to a FAQ column on the nfl.com website, a general public sale of individual tickets for Seahawks vs. Raiders, as well as any team returns from the other two matches, will go on sale at 10 a.m. British Standard Time Sept. 10. Be on a shot at tickets, be on the Ticketmaster.co.uk/nfl website at that time (It might prove wise to open an account in advance).

No luck? StubHub.com, the online ticket exchange company owned by eBay, is a marketplace for the resale of tickets. Although tickets to popular events often go for a hefty premium, the service is backed up with a fan-protecting, 100 percent money-back guarantee.



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



The veggie burger at Bistro Stellwerk in Weilerbach, Germany, came with a side salad and French fries, (or about 11 euros).



Bistro Stellwerk's veggie burger bun is slathered with avocado cream, a nice alternative to the more commonly used mayonnaise or ketchup.



The decadent chocolate cake at Bistro Stellwerk comes with a layer of cherry filling.

## After Hours: Germany

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

Ordering a veggie burger anywhere — but especially in a land famous for its sausage — can be a roll of the dice.

But at Bistro-Cafe Stellwerk on the outskirts of Kaiserslautern, the gamble paid off with a red-bean patty that didn't remind me of cardboard, in taste or texture.

The Weilerbach cafe has a compact menu that covers the basics of pizza, pasta, salad, burger and meat dishes. Nothing fancy, but many of the choices are just different enough from those of a typical German restaurant to get excited about.

There's spaghetti with basil-pesto sauce or a chicken burger with a fried egg. The two choices of pizza come with either salami or arugula. One of the salads is served with goat cheese, honey and walnuts.

Of course, the German staple schnitzel is on the menu, with or without homemade mushroom sauce. But if pork doesn't tickle your taste buds, the bistro offers a fried chicken breast fillet with Mediterranean vegetables and "oven potatoes" with sour cream.

And then there is the veggie burger. Thanks to the option of an English menu, I could see that the burger was made with red beans and came topped with avocado cream, jalapenos, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and onions. The English was no help in deciphering what the "crunchy burger bun" was.

But the bread might have been the best part of the meal: It had an orange hue — possibly from sun-dried tomatoes; it tasted fresh and didn't fall apart, expertly holding together the hefty load of toppings and two types of melted cheese.

I also learned two things from my lunch outing: Avocado cream is a thing. Google it. And always squeeze the top of your straw if wasps are around.

Enjoying the waning warmth of late August on the bistro's outdoor patio meant putting up with a few pesky wasps, which beelined it for my glass of sweet tea. I shoed them away, no big deal. Then I took a sip and got a mouthful of a wasp that had crawled inside the opaque straw. Somehow, I managed to spit it out before it deployed its stinger.

I suddenly felt darn lucky: Because my mouth wouldn't be swelling shut, I was able to eat some chocolate cake layered with cherry filling. The bistro also sells a variety of ice cream flavors, 1 euro (\$1.20) per scoop.

Besides the standard menu, the cafe offers a few specials. On the day I went, it was salad with salmon or a pancake with Bolognese sauce



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

The patio outside Bistro Stellwerk in Weilerbach, Germany, is a great place to catch some rays of late summer and early fall.

## BISTRO-CAFE STELLWERK

Address: Von Redwitzstraße, 67685 Weilerbach, Germany  
Hours: Daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Tuesdays. Hot meals from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30-9:30 p.m.  
Prices: Reasonable; all meals are less than 10 euros (about \$11.50).  
English menu: Yes  
Cuisine: Mostly Americans and Germans  
Dress: Casual  
Information: Phone: (+49)(0)6374-9914493, email stellwerk@gemeinschaftswerk.de

— Jennifer H. Svan

and mushrooms. The bistro's summer menu will change sometime in October, a server told me.

Even if you're not looking for a meal, the cafe is a great place to enjoy a glass of wine or dessert. The cafe's patio faces the village square, where kids can run through the fountains in the summer months.

Patronizing the bistro is also a way to support an important local organization. The bistro is managed by the Westpfalz workshop, which employs people with disabilities who might not be able to find a job on the open market. Service on the day I went was top-notch.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesktown

## 'Food halls' picking up where food courts left off

By LAVANIA RAMANATHAN  
The Washington Post

For months, Arturo Mei parked his food truck — a tricked-out old school bus painted blue — in a craggy Northern Virginia parking lot by a defunct Korean restaurant/pool hall and a flour-dredging Kmart.

This party bus cranked out Mei's version of delicate, snowy Taiwanese-style ice cream, which he'd shave into sweet ribbons that tasted of green tea or taro or mango. Snocream started drawing lines of foodies to the decrepit strip mall that had long since ceased to attract much of anything.

"Back in the day, food trucks were the trend," Mei, 34, says with a chuckle. "So we did that." But he felt a tickle of intuition that their moment was waning — and he quickly set his sights on the next thing. After more than two years in its periphery, he and partner Peter Choi rented the 5,000-square-foot pool hall. Instead of a "one-trick pony" ice cream shop, the pair carved it up, building out five stalls and a bar. And just like that, Annandale — a suburb known for its myriad Korean barbecue joints and bakeries — had a "food hall."

The eatery, called The Block, is emblematic of the modern food hall in almost every way: There's trendy neon signage, a handful of local vendors, raw concrete floors, communal tables, blaring pop music and young women Instagramming their outlandish desserts.

Food halls — very loosely defined as vast spaces filled with upstart food vendors and frequently a shop or two — have become a popular answer to several nagging urban-development problems. They're where foodie culture and a changing American palate have crashed headfirst into urban renewal and the new realities of shopping.

In 2010, there were just 25 American food halls. By 2020, real-estate analysts predict Starbucksian explosion, with an estimated 300 pecking the landscape.

In Plano, Texas, there's Legacy Food Hall, where you can nibble on bacon-grilled cheese doughnuts or tour a brewery. At New York's Chelsea Market, you can graze on vegan maki stuffed with brown fennel and sundried tomato, or wait in the snaking line for an adobado taco. This summer, Rockville, Md., got the Spot, where diners can fit from beef noodle soup to Hong Kong-style "bubble" waffles, phonetically wrapped around a mountain of Thai tea ice cream, mango and green mochi cane.

Austin will soon have four food halls. New York has two dozen, including Eataly, the market that might have started the craze. More are bound for college towns and the ground floors of apartment buildings and old shopping strips, even Flushing, Queens. In Arlington, Va.,

a new food hall is being erected for tenants that include a pizzeria whose chef has been nominated for a James Beard Award.

It will be in a mall. Which brings us to the singular question worth asking about the food hall boom: Aren't these just ... food courts?

For decades, food-court purveyors had a stranglehold on how we ate when we shopped. No matter which mall you were in, you'd experience the de ja vu of Orange Julius, Auntie Anne's, Panda Express and Sharro's. The pretzel-and-Cinnabon lineup was expressly designed for shoppers to carbo-load while resting their feet — sustenance to keep them shopping.

The old food court and the new food hall are deeply intertwined within the trends haunting the retail sector, one gasping for breath as shoppers embrace the convenience of purchasing with a click, and the other thriving in the place it left vacant.

As many old pillars of retail crumble — the Limited, Radio Shack, Toys R Us — landlords are suddenly faced with a vast sea of space and a dearth of potential tenants. Developers "have said, 'Wait a second. What really drives foot traffic?'" says Joe McLean, chief executive of Edens, which operates Union Market, a sprawling Washington, D.C., food hall that sees more than 2.5 million visitors a year.

These days, it's avocado toast, Taiwanese fried chicken, Israeli-style pita — exotic or artisanal foods that fulfill the supposed need of millennials for experiences.

Still, "you can't put lipstick on a food court, call it a food hall and make it work," insists Garrick Brown, head of retail research for the real-estate firm Cushman & Wakefield and author of a recent report on food halls. They are a "reverse of what the old model was. This is not food as an amenity, this is food as the primary reason for people being there."

Food halls are painstakingly planned, says Will Voegelé, a senior vice president of Forest City Realty Trust, which is developing the Arlington mall project known as Belltown Quarter, featuring a 25,000-square-foot space dedicated to mostly local vendors. A bar is a must. So are activities and events — from live music to "drive-in" movie screenings.

Chains are mostly shunned. But with pizza, dumplings and tacos, it's hard to argue that the new food hall doesn't mirror the old food court, with edgier independent vendors simply picking up where the old chains left off.

Brown, the retail analyst, cautions against confusing food halls with restaurants. "Food halls," he says, "are a sharing of space for restaurants," offering would-be restaurateurs a chance to open quickly in high-traffic cities, with fewer costs and less risk. The leases in food halls are far shorter than the long contracts that yoke restaurants.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe



PHOTOS BY HUGH BIGGAR/For The Washington Post

Top: Murals commemorate Irish historical events and cultural touchstones on the "International Wall" dividing loyalist and nationalist neighborhoods. Above left: Frederick Douglass, Nelson Mandela and other resistance figures highlight a peace wall off Falls Road in Belfast. Notably, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi has been crossed out to protest persecution of the Rohingya in the country. Above right: The Cupar Way peace wall includes signatures and messages from visitors.

# 'The murals speak for us'

## Art on Belfast's walls offers an illustrated history of the Troubles

By HUGH BIGGAR

Special to The Washington Post

In a quiet cul-de-sac, I stand in front of modest brick houses while a woman pushes a pram and two workmen fix a garden gate. The serenity makes it easy to overlook that I am standing on the front lines of what, just two decades ago, was one of the most dangerous cities in the world. If I look closer, the signs are there — as are indicators of a more peaceable present.

I am in Belfast, just off Falls Road, which

for roughly 30 years was a flash point in a violent conflict known as the Troubles — during which Irish nationalists who were mostly Catholic battled British loyalists who were mostly Protestant over issues of civil rights and political control. To learn more about this conflict and the city at its center, I set out to explore the walls and murals that are a defining feature of Belfast life.

To get a local perspective, I sign up for a guided tour at the Belfast Welcome Center. Twenty minutes later, a London-style black cab driven by a wiry fellow with a white

beard and a wizard-like look picks me up. He introduces himself as Kevin, in an accent as rich and thick as the local ale, while we head away from the Victorian pubs, office towers and construction cranes of the city center into a working-class section of Belfast.

Here, and in a patchwork pattern across the city, neighborhoods are divided into nationalist or loyalist strongholds. The nationalists and more hard-line republicans have sought to be united with Ireland, while loyalists or unionists have favored being a part of Britain. Long-simmering tensions between

the two sides erupted into the Troubles in the late 1960s, which ultimately claimed nearly 4,000 lives, more than half of them civilians.

At our first stop, the cul-de-sac, Kevin points out some of the hidden-in-plain-sight factors of daily life here. At the end of the street, just behind the houses and blending in with the gunmetal sky are peace lines, as local barrier walls are called — barbed wire and high metal fences to block projectiles thrown over from the neighborhood on the other side.

Back on Falls Road, Kevin parks and we head into the chilly drizzle for a better look at a long, mural-covered wall in front of a four factory.

"The murals speak for us, see," Kevin says, meaning Irish Catholics. "Under English rule, the Irish didn't have any rights, didn't have any voice, so we turned to the murals to express ourselves."

Behind us is a working-class Irish Catholic neighborhood with houses flying green, white and orange Irish flags, and murals of local heroes and causes — boxers, released political prisoners, martyrs from the Troubles. Ahead of us, the wall acts as a barrier for the Protestant neighborhood across Falls Road, which was at the center of bloody street battles dating back to 1969, when the British sent in troops to suppress a curfew protest. A few decades ago, this area was filled with the sound of locals banging trash bin lids and blowing whistles to warn of approaching British soldiers, but on this wet afternoon the only noise is of cars and red double-decker buses sluicing past.

"Now, just imagine you were in America but had to have a North Korean passport," Kevin continues, adding another curve in a conversation that has so far dipped and swerved into discussions of DeLorean cars (which were built in Belfast), the Titanic (also Belfast-built) and the Jamestown colony. (The English crown sent some Protestants to colonize Virginia and others to Northern Ireland.)

On the wall across the road, known as the "International Wall," one painting shows female combatants, another a soldier waving the tricolor Irish flag above a harp and other Celtic symbols, and next to him a soldier firing a pistol beside men in street clothes with rifles. For good reason, this is known as the "bombs and bullets" tour of Belfast.

Back in the car, we drive past

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

## KNOW & GO

### INFORMATION

Online: visitbelfast.com

### WHAT TO DO

■ **Peace Lines and Murals**, Belfast Welcome Center, 9 Donegall Square N., 011-44-289-024-6609; bit.ly/BelfastMurals

Several companies offer tours of the more well-known mural sites and sectarian neighborhoods. The tours are in black taxis, last about 90 minutes and include commentary from the driver.

To arrange a tour (about \$45), visit the Belfast Welcome Center.

■ **Queens University**, University Road, 011-44-289-097-5252; qub.ac.uk

The historical and scenic university provides a good starting point for a different side of Belfast. Many bookstores, cafes and bars are situated nearby. Walk across the leafy campus to the Ulster Museum, which has several exhibits on area history and culture. Nearby Ormeau Road offers a diverse selection of stores, multiethnic restaurants, parks, traditional pubs and craft breweries.

■ **Titanic Museum**, 1 Olympic Way, Queen's Rd., 011-44-289-076-6386; titanicbelfast.com

A short bus ride or walk from the city center, the museum is an impressive mix of the Belfast-built Titanic's history and immersive experiences to illustrate shipboard life. Designed like a ship itself, the museum also has a helpful overview of Belfast history leading up to the construction of the ship. Allow plenty of time for the visit and to navigate the museum's many layers. Tickets start at \$10 for a child, \$23 for an adult, and \$57

for a family pass.

### DAY TRIPS FROM BELFAST

Popular day trips from Belfast can be arranged at the Belfast Welcome Center and include guided tours of "Game of Thrones" shooting sites (about \$57 for a student or \$63 for adults) and visits to ancient stone castles along the coast. The coast is also home to the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage site for its unique geological formations that brings to mind a staircase for giants.

## FROM PAGE 30

a section of small businesses—a pizza place, a dentist's office and an Irish dance shop that, according to its sign, can also meet your hip-hop and disco needs—and Kevin turns onto a side street, parks the cab and reminds me again to consider how life would be if North Korea took over America.

Not sure how to respond, I cross the street to inspect a mural advocating for the Gaelic language and another depicting global freedom fighters. Images of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Geronimo, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Bob Marley, Nelson Mandela and others stare defiantly from the wall alongside quotes on freedom and liberty.

As I later discover at an exhibit on the Troubles at the Ulster Museum across town, such scenes are in keeping with the themes of the Irish nationalist murals, which focus on Irish identity and individuals fighting for freedom from oppression—especially American civil rights leaders. The loyalist murals typically spotlight historical events, paramilitary groups and local heroes. By unspoken agreement, both sides refrain from defacing the other's murals. In the past decade, newer artwork advocates for tolerance and inclusion.

To see examples of the loyalist point of view, I walk through a steel gate, open during the day but closed at night and on weekends, and pass into a section of Protestant Belfast off Shankill Road. The British first started building the gates and peace lines in the 1970s to keep the two sides apart. Both sides of the divided street look the same; brick rowhouses, small shops, churches, warehouses, people out and about. But the Union Jack flags and murals provide a ready reminder of this side's sentiment, with one featuring a black-and-white photograph of the aftermath of a bombing and questions about justice.

"It's like a living museum," I say of the murals when Kevin swings around and picks me up. "Ah, but it isn't, see," he replies. He points out that although 20 years have passed since former senator George Mitchell Jr., D-Maine, as the special envoy for Northern Ireland under President Bill Clinton, helped broker a peace accord known as the "Good Friday Agreement," the Troubles continue to simmer.

Yet as we head through West Belfast, there are signs of change. We pass a conflict-resolution center and murals calling for ending sectarianism and removing the peace walls. (The government has plans to bring them down by 2023.) Driving through the city, there are Turkish barbershops, Tandoori takeout places, Caribbean restaurants and African grocery stores—all reflecting a new face of Belfast and seemingly unburdened by the local enmities.

"So how would I do if you just dropped me off?" I ask as we drive down a particularly scruffy street with houses marked with hard-edge political messages, an old tire on the road and kids riding aimlessly on bikes.

"Ah, you'd be fine," Kevin says. "Belfast is now one of the safest cities in Europe and has low crime."

## RESTAURANT DIRECTORY



## GERMANY



KAISERSLAUTERN	BAVARIA	BAVARIA	RHEIN MAIN
<b>Zimtblüte</b> asian food Call 0631-58047 for Pick-Up Orders Tue-Sun 11am-9pm Mon Closed Weilerbacher Str. 110 67661 Kaiserslautern	 <b>BOHM</b> Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 9369-0 • www.hotelboehm.de	 <b>Hours of Operation:</b> Fr, Sa, Su, Mo • 1000-2200 Tu, Th • 1100-1430 / 1700-2200 Wed • closed Im Gewerbepark 1 • 92655 Grafenwöhr Delivery Service • 09641-9367541 www.roadside-diner.com	 Come Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine www.brauhaus-castel.de Otto Suhr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 Open daily from 11:00 – 24:00
 <b>COCKTAIL CASINO</b> <b>HAPPY Hour</b> <b>ENCHI Hour</b> Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 www.Enchilada-kaiserslautern.de	 <b>WEST COAST TACOS</b> Phone: +49 911 384 382 66 Untere Zwingler Str 9 NBS crazynateswcm@gmail.com crazynates.de	 <b>STUTT GART</b> Kashmir STUTT GART Pläzchen Str. 309 • Phone 0714-88 54 345 ECHTERBINGEN Echterberg Str. 11 • Phone 0714-99 28 36 LEONBERG Leonberger Str. 97 • Phone 0714-99 33 37 Hours: 12:00 – 14:30 and 17:30 – 23:00	
 <b>BIG EMMA</b> Best Lavastone Steak in town! Open everyday 11-11 Reichswaldstrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein 06371 406 770 www.bigemma-ramstein.com	 <b>Caribbean Grill</b> Savor the Flavor of the Islands Dellfurter Str. 18   92655 Grafenwöhr 0152-58866759 Fr - Sa 17:00-22:00 Caribbean Dishes • Side Selection • Desserts	 <b>EHRBAR</b> BEST BURGER IN TOWN Lauchstrasse 1 • 71032 Böblingen T: 07031 98 96 961 www.ehrbar-bb.de facebook/Ehrbar-Böblingen	 <b>tialini</b> tialini Wiesbaden Mauritiusstraße 5 65183 Wiesbaden www.tialini.de
 <b>KMCC Hofbräu</b> Taste of Bavaria Mon-Sat 1000 – 2200 Sunday 1000 – 2100 06371 802 0480 Located in the KMCC	 <b>Liu Asia Restaurant &amp; Bar</b> Frauenrichter Straße 73 92637 Tel.: 0961 - 49778 38 Buffet open Tuesday through Sunday 11:30 - 14:00 Uhr 17:30 - 23:30 Uhr	 <b>TRIPLE B</b> Two Locations: Hohenloherstraße 8 70435 Stuttgart and Marienstraße 28 70178 Stuttgart TRIPLE B • High Quality Burgers www.beef-burger-brothers.de	 <b>China Restaurant Mayflower</b> Open daily 11:30 – 15:00 & 17:30 – 23:30 USD accepted – Master Card/Visa Tel. 06134-258928 Uthmann Strasse 8, Mainz-Kostheim
	 <b>IRISH PUB</b> GRAFENWÖHR Our kitchen opens mid-August Marktplatz 30 • 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 / 91 68 622 • info@pub-irish.de	 <b>STADT CAFE</b> Holzgerlingen Breakfast • Lunch Daily Special Coffee & Cake Homemade Ice Cream Sunday Breakfast Turmstr. 6 71088 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.diestadtkafe.de Opening Times Mo - Fr 8:30am to 7pm Sa 9am to 6pm Sun 9am to 7pm	

## HOTEL DIRECTORY



## GERMANY



 <b>BOHM</b> Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr • 09641 9369-0 www.hotelboehm.de	 <b>COURTYARD</b> Marriott WIESBADEN NORDENSTADT Book directly: On www.courtyard-wiesbaden.com via our Military code and get Marriott Rewards. Östweg 9, 63209 Wiesbaden T: +49 (0)6202 260 0 W: www.courtyard-wiesbaden.com	 <b>PULLMAN</b> HOTELS AND RESORTS STUTTGART FORNHAUS Vollnollnerstraße 5 • 70563 VAHINGEN - STUTTGART T: +49 71 750 0 • F: +49 71 750 2525 • E: h45@pullman.com <b>BOOK TODAY 0711 750 2300</b>	 <b>EDELWEISS</b> LODGE AND RESORT
--	---	---	--

**HOTEL AM SEE**  
HOTEL • GRILL • BAR  
Kirchenhumbacher Str. 36, • 92676 Eschenbach  
Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444  
Email: [Hotelamsee@usa.net](mailto:Hotelamsee@usa.net) • [www.HotelAmSee.de](http://www.HotelAmSee.de)

## Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch

Free Breakfast, Family Apartments

Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome,  
American/German Owned,  
36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night.  
Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: [hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de](mailto:hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de)  
VAT Forms accepted • [www.forsthaus-oberau.de](http://www.forsthaus-oberau.de)

## Hotel Villa

Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks  
Amberger Str. 9 • 92249 Vilseck  
E-Mail: [hotel-villa@email.de](mailto:hotel-villa@email.de)  
Tel.: +49 (0) 9662/42070  
[www.hotel-villa-vilseck.de](http://www.hotel-villa-vilseck.de)



# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

By ANNIE GROER

Special to The Washington Post

**T**ibet. Nepal. Bhutan. The names rolled off of my tongue like a timeless Himalayan mantra.

I was itching to go, but after decades of solo rambling, I was done with handling tricky logistics. Let someone else — preferably an established tour company — arrange flights, guides, hotels, baggage and, most important, assorted visas and travel permits.

Globe-trotting friends suggested Road Scholar, a do-it-all company for travelers baby boomer age and older, which is how I spent 16 days last spring in and around the capital cities of Lhasa, Kathmandu and Thimphu. There were 11 of us, in our mid-50s to late 70s, with fitness and congeniality levels ranging from impressive to dubious.

Led by two guides per city, we padded through Buddhist and Hindu holy sites, trying to keep straight each faith's main precepts and deities. We watched students practice, and thus preserve, the heritage arts of painting, carving, weaving, boot-making and sculpture. We traversed museums and markets, and compared the dancing skills of monks, archers, folkloric troupes and ordinary folk. We marveled at the fluttering prayer flags and spinning prayer wheels everywhere we turned.

And we consumed a lot of yak. Meat that was grilled, stewed or ground and stuffed into dumplings called momo; yak milk and yak butter mixed into fermented tea; and yak cheese, eaten dried and crunchy, or cooked low, slow and oozy with spicy green chiles.

On balance, Road Scholar — roadscholar.org, founded in 1975 as Elderhostel and mercifully re-branded in 2010 — provided a fascinating look at what has been dubbed the Rooftop of the World. The trip was not perfect, but then again, all I had to do was show up.

### Lhasa

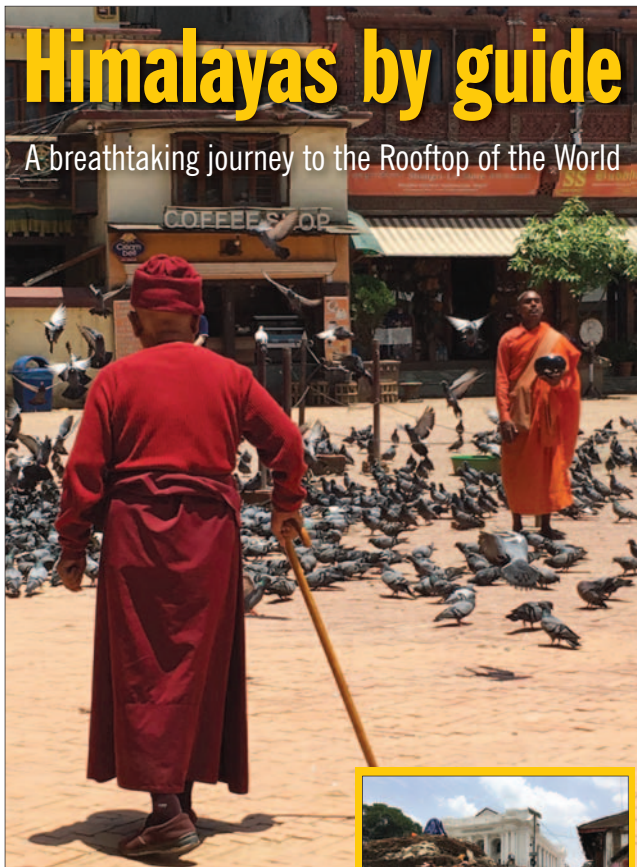
Shortly after we landed in Lhasa, elevation 11,500 feet, my head began to pound and my heart started to race. Altitude sickness aside, I was eager to explore the capital of China's Tibet Autonomous Region.

We'd been warned not to discuss politics during our four days in Lhasa, especially the current Dalai Lama who fled to India in 1959 amid Beijing's bloody crackdown on Tibet.

Our focus was strictly Buddhism and culture. Before entering Tibet's holiest site, the 7th-century Jokhang Temple, the devout prayed or prostrated themselves on the ground.

Inside, the scent of butter lamps and incense drifted over the crush of pilgrims who inched past dazzling relics, murals and the most sacred Jowo Shakyamuni in the fifth Dalai Lama reportedly made when he was 12. The pilgrims' faith was palpable.

More difficult to reach, up hundreds of switchback stairs, was Potala Palace, the soaring cliffside architectural icon that dominates Lhasa's skyline. Built in 1645 by the fifth Dalai Lama, Potala would be used by all nine



PHOTOS BY ANNIE GROER/For The Washington Post

**Above:** Near the Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal, a monk stands among the pigeons, begging bowl in hand, while another monk makes his way through the square. **Right:** In Kathmandu, many important temples and heritage sites in Durbar Square were badly damaged in the 2015 earthquake.

of his successors as a winter palace, citadel and spiritual center of Tibetan Buddhism. Today, 20 of the 1,000 rooms are open as a museum.

At the Sera Monastery, in a shaded, white-graveled courtyard, countless pairs of red-robed monks were locked in heated debate. With voices raised and arms flailing, each standing senior monk argued moral doctrine to the disciple seated at his feet. The protégé could only reply after the mentor clapped his hands. The emphatic speech and balletic movements were riveting.

Our major field trip was a 75-mile bus ride from Lhasa to a settlement of semi-nomads, where yak butter tea (an acquired taste), dried cheese (salty) and sweet cakes (tasty) were served in a modest family

compound. Handmade tapestries covered doors and windows, and posters hailing Chinese Communist Party leaders leaned against a wall.

### Kathmandu

Two events a half-century apart comprised what little I'd heard about Kathmandu: The late 1960s counterculture invasion fueled by then-legal hashish and cannabis; and the 2015 earthquake and aftershocks that killed nearly 9,000 people, left about 500,000 homeless and destroyed or damaged many important Hindu and Buddhist temples, palaces and pagodas.

"Hippies put Kathmandu on the map in the '60s and '70s," said Sanjay Nepal, our irreverent chief guide and fixer. "After the earthquake, they sent in their photos of how things used to look,

to help with restoration."

Today, post-disaster construction is everywhere in the dusty, dirty, traffic-choked city of 1 million (closer to 5 million when counting the surrounding Kathmandu Valley).

In the town of Bhaktapur, once a major medieval city-state, and at central Kathmandu's Durbar Square eight miles away and other heritage sites, great piles of rescued bricks, stone and timbers were being used to rebuild the distinctive red clay Newari structures that were built from the 12th to 15th centuries; they are known for intricately carved windows, eaves, cornices and doorways.

Nepal's holiest Hindu temple, Pashupatinath, is closed to non-Hindus. Rather than visiting other major houses of worship there, I zoomed in on the sadhus,

ascetics who renounce the world to embark on religious quests. Some travel nearly naked, covered in gray dust or ash. Others frequent tourist-thronged holy sites like this one. Dressed in layers of red, orange and yellow with elaborate face painting, they serenely posed for photos in return for alms.

Our first days in greater Kathmandu were not solely Hindu-centric, given the country's deep Buddhist influence. (Buddha was born in 523 B.C. in what is now Nepal.) On separate days, we saw the city's major stupas, enormous half-dome holy edifices built on square bases and topped by pointed spires painted with four sets of Buddha's all-seeing eyes.

Happily shifting from the sacred to the mercantile, we peered into stalls and shops along central Kathmandu's narrow back streets. I was entranced by knife sharpeners sitting opposite each other; one pulled both ends of a chain back and forth while the other honed a barber's scissors on the spinning stone. When finished, they picked up their ingeniously simple rig and moved on.

### Bhutan

It seemed fitting to end the trifecta in Bhutan, the land of Gross National Happiness. Since 1972, when then-King Jigme Singye Wangchuck coined the term and declared Gross National Happiness more important than Gross National Product, Bhutan's leaders have tried to ramp up the joy level of its nearly 800,000 citizens, giving value to health, education and personal well-being.

Visitors have much to admire: crystalline waters, gorgeous scenery, organic farming, craft-beer breweries, great climbing and hiking, rich handicrafts and traditional architecture that somehow evokes Swiss chalets. Many homes we saw during our five days were white-painted stone or packed mud, with elaborate wooden windows and cornices. And there was no missing the phalluses — painted on house-fronts or carved into amulets dangling from the eaves — used to repel assorted evils. The phallus practice began with Lama Drukpa Kunley, dubbed the Divine Madman, who spread Buddhism through Bhutan in the 15th and 16th centuries using sex, song and raunchy humor, as well as scripture and ritual.

There are obstacles to seeing Bhutan: tightly controlled tourist visas and a \$250 daily spending minimum — it includes hotels, local transportation and transport — intended to generate revenue and protect the country's fragile environment from hordes of budget travelers.

Our last day in Thimphu was reserved for the arduous climb to the Tiger's Nest Monastery, about 7½ miles from Paro and built on a sheer cliff at just above 10,000 feet in elevation. Only four from our group reached the highest lookout point; the rest dropped out along the way. Owing to a wonky knee, I skipped the hike altogether in favor of a massage at the hotel spa. How better to practice Gross National Happiness?



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Pacific

## After Hours: Okinawa

By AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

As an exchange student in 1998 in Oklahoma City, my host family's weekend ritual involved attending Sunday mass, followed by a large dim sum brunch. Dim sum, a popular style of Chinese cuisine composed of bite-sized dishes, remained one of my favorite meals when I entered college and moved into my own place.

I decided to relive my dim sum-eating days with a visit to Makan Makan — a dim sum restaurant located inside the upscale Coco Garden Resort in Okinawa's Uruma City.

My companions and I were immediately drawn to the restaurant's beautiful location, which offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean alongside the hotel's lush garden and pool. Makan Makan's interior decor is equally appealing, featuring gorgeous Asian wood furniture and Okinawan Ryukyu glassware on every table.

Makan Makan offers an all-you-can-eat dining plan, which varies in price depending on the time of day and day of the week. Lunch plans start at 2,500 yen for adults (or about \$23.50) and 1,250 for children, while dinner plans start at 3,800 yen for adults and 1,900 for children. The restaurant serves a small selection of specialty dishes during both the lunch and dinner services — but, due to their limited availability, guests are allowed just one order per person of these items.

In addition to the dim sum menu, the all-you-can-eat plan also includes access to the restaurant's salad bar, a selection of noodle and rice porridge dishes, and a drink bar stocked with a wide variety of Chinese teas. My favorite of the teas was the lychee tea — which smelled like traditional Darjeeling tea, but tasted like sweet lychee fruit.

Makan Makan offers more than 23 types of dim sum on its menu, so guests should be sure to come hungry and willing to sample a wide variety of dishes.

Shrimp lovers have plenty to choose from on the dim sum menu. The Royal Garden Prawns, one of the restaurant's special limited dishes, are deep fried in butter and served with house mayonnaise sauce. These prawns are large, tasty and are a far cry from the smaller prawns usually found at cheaper Chinese restaurants. The Tender Prawns Simmered in Chili Sauce are prepared with Sichuan chili spice and have just the right amount of kick and flavor, while the shrimp cheong fun — a traditional steamed rice noodle crepe — are perfectly delicate and flavorful.

Makan Makan also serves xiaolongbao — a wildly popular Chinese dish more commonly referred to as "soup dumplings." Xiaolongbao are stuffed with a mixture of meat and gelatinized broth that transforms into hot, delicious soup when the dumplings are steamed. Although these particular xiaolongbao were a bit messy, they still tasted delicious.

During my lunch visit, other special dishes available



Above: The Tender Prawns Simmered in Chili Sauce are prepared with Sichuan chili spice and have just the right amount of kick and flavor.



Left: Makan Makan's extensive dessert selection includes mango shaved ice, a light and refreshing end to a filling meal.

Photo by Aya Ichihashi  
Stars and Stripes

included sauteed scallops and fried oysters served with traditional Chinese black bean sauce. The scallops were moist and seasoned to perfection, while the surprisingly large fried oysters remained juicy despite a crisp coating on the outside. The black bean sauce added to the flavorful dish.

My dining companions and I also opted for some of the non-dim sum dishes on the menu — including fried rice and Sichuan-style mapo tofu, a sweet-yet-spicy mixture of minced meat and tofu that's famous for being one of the most popular Chinese dishes in Japan.

For dessert, I went for mango pudding and mango shaved ice. Both were a refreshing end to a delicious meal.

Despite my long history as a dim sum aficionado, Makan Makan exceeded my expectations. Even my Taiwanese and Chinese friends were impressed with the quality and flavor of the restaurant's cuisine. Our only mistake was ordering too many sides, as it prevented us from trying more of the dim sum.

After dining at Makan Makan, guests can relax in the many hammocks located throughout the hotel's gardens. It's the perfect place to take a breather after a large meal and take in the beautiful Okinawan landscape. Perhaps during my next visit, I will bring a book to read on the hammocks and start a new dim sum ritual here in Okinawa.

ichihashi.aya@stripes.com



Some of the traditional dim sum offerings at Makan Makan in Okinawa include shrimp cheong fun, a type of rice noodle crepe, and xiaolongbao, better known as "soup dumplings."

## MAKAN MAKAN

Location: 501, Ishikawa-Iha, Uruma-City, Okinawa, 904-1115

Directions: From Camp Foster's Legion Gate (Gate 6), take the express toll road starting at Exit 3. Exit the toll road at Exit 5, turning left on Route 329. Stay on Route 329 for about 3 miles before turning right at Iha Intersection. Follow the road for a half mile, then turn left immediately following the elementary school. Coco Garden Resort will be on your left.

Hours: Open daily. Lunch served from noon to 2:30 p.m.; dinner from served from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Prices: Weekday lunch plans are 2,500 yen for adults (about \$23.50) and 1,250 for children ages 11 and under, while weekend and holiday lunch plans are 2,800 yen for adults and 1,400 for children. Weekday dinner plans are 3,800 yen for adults and 1,900 for children ages 11 and under, while weekend and holiday dinner plans are 4,300 and 2,150 for children. Seniors receive a small discount, depending on age. All meal plans are all you can eat.

Dress: Casual

Information: Free parking is available at Coco Garden Resort. Reservations are recommended.

Online: cocogarden.com/english/restaurant

— Aya Ichihashi

Est.1925 **MARUARA WATANABE** 丸和 和雜貨丸渡邊

Cheerful KIMONO & Good Souvenir-shop

- ★ GETA (Wooden Footwear) ★ CHIRIMEN Bags
- ★ SAMURAI-KIMONO ★ YUKATA-KIMONO
- ★ NOREN (Tapestry) ★ JIKATABI (Japanese TABI Shoes)
- ★ TENUGUI Cloth ★ FUROSHIKI Wrapping Cloth
- ★ CHIRIMEN (Japanese Crepe Cloth)

**03-3461-0064 • www.maruara.com • info@maruara.com**

**Mon.- Fri.**  
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
**Sat., Sun., Holidays**  
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
**Closed on Wednesday**  
16-8, Udagawacho, Shibuya-ku, TOKYO

Pick Your Prize and Enter to Win!

**2018 SUMMER Giveaway**

**BOSE** wireless headphone

↓ ↓ ↓ How to enter, go to ↓ ↓ ↓

**www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFLYJGJ**

**Entry Period**  
Begins: August 13th, 2018  
Ends: September 7th, 2018

**STARS AND STRIPES**

For more details, please visit: <https://www.stripes.com/promotions/promotion-rules>



## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



# Beads, bourbon, beignets — and babies?

## Some would like to see New Orleans' French Quarter become more family-friendly

By JENNY JARVIE  
Los Angeles Times

**T**he family stepped warily onto Bourbon Street and hurried past a burlesque joint, an absinthe bar and neon signs touting “Leather Lingerie Love Toys” and “Hunk Oasis Male Strippers.”

Heather and Chad Bruton, a clean-cut couple from Texas, didn't want to visit this historic city for the first time without witnessing its famed promenade of debauchery. But with three young children in tow, they didn't want to see too much.

“How come that guy died on the street?” 3-year-old Cooper said as he spotted a barefoot man passed out on a sidewalk.

It was still well before noon, and the air reeked of stale beer, grease, vomit and bleach.

“We knew we weren't coming to Disney World,” said Chad, 40, a director of analytics for a media company in Dallas. “But then again, it could be cleaner ... couldn't they make it more safe and more clean?”

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser wants to do just that.

The French Quarter is not the first place many Americans think of as a family tourist destination. For more than a century, it has offered a more risqué kind of leisure — a nightly spectacle of jaunty Mardi Gras kings, burlesque dancers, jazz musicians, hustlers, drag queens, tap dancers, second-line paraders and revelers

strutting and shimmying for beads.

But the plain-spoken Republican believes the city, which attracted a record 10.9 million visitors last year, has reached a “critical point” in its struggle to maintain public safety in the quarter. His prescription: turning the French Quarter into a state park to make it more “family friendly.”

“We don't want to attract only people who want to drink daiquiris or go to a strip club,” Nungesser said. “We want to attract families from all over the world.”

The idea appears to be a nonstarter because it would require cooperation with the city, and New Orleans' Democratic mayor, LaToya Cantrell, has said she has no interest in ceding control of the center of the city's \$7.5 billion tourism industry.

Still, the proposal, which Nungesser raised this summer in a private meeting with Cantrell, has raised long-standing fears about attempts to sanitize the historic district and prompted plenty of ridicule from locals.

“The quarter is as clean as it needs to be,” said Dr. Brobston Lutz, 70, a prominent socialite and private physician who has lived on Dumaine Street for decades and owns Tennessee Williams' former home. “The last thing I would want to see it become is a family vacation destination. That would ruin us!”

Lutz conceded the 78-block area might qualify as a sort of park already.

“We got a wetland around every bar,” he said. “... You can see gay bears, you can see dancing fairies,

predatory rats, the uptown elite, drunk college kids.”

Lyn Archer, a stripper who represents the Bourbon Alliance of Responsible Entertainers, fears Bourbon Street could eventually become the kind of “historical” site where workers dress up in period clothing to simulate traditional trades and read diaries to tourists. “Is this our future?” she said. “To perform under a facade of the past for the amusement of visitors?”

Nungesser put an emphasis on reducing crime in the French Quarter, envisioning more street lights and surveillance cameras, a clampdown on panhandling, and a park ranger on every corner.

In fact, the quarter is already one of the safest pockets in New Orleans. Police say violent crime has been falling there, even as the city's homicide rate remains one of the highest in the nation.

Nicholas Gernon, the commander of the police district that includes the quarter, credited the department's efforts to clamp down on illegal guns, the introduction of state troopers to patrol the area, and the creation of the French Quarter Task Force, a patrol that lets citizens report crimes and summon officers through a mobile app.

Day and night, officers parade up and down Bourbon Street on horseback and Segways.

The city has installed surveillance cameras along Bourbon Street and other areas this year as part of a \$40 million public safety plan. Earlier this

year, several clubs were raided and cited for violations such as prostitution, lewd acts and drug sales, prompting hundreds of people to march through the quarter holding signs saying, “No new Bourbon Street!” and “This is NOLA Not Disneyland.”

That's evident each morning when sanitation crews descend on the strip to sweep, haul and hose away a thick layer of party crud: plastic straws, Mardi Gras beads, vomit, chicken wings, feather boas, sandals, cigarette butts, lime wedges, giant plastic cups shaped as fishbowls, Red Bull cans, carrots, broken glass, pizza crust, orange peel and dollar bills.

Not that families aren't already visiting the French Quarter.

For many, Bourbon Street is just another stop between the aquarium and the insectarium, beignets and shrimp po' boys, a swamp tour and a paddle-wheel cruise.

“Nobody would come here if it wasn't a party,” Alicia Allen, 67, said as she walked down Bourbon Street with her daughter after handing her three grandchildren — who were tired of walking — off to a relative.

At dusk, the crowd got more giddy. A mother grinned as her preteen daughter danced in the middle of the street, waving her arms up at a balcony.

“Can you imagine letting your kids out in this?” a middle-aged woman drawled to her friend as they watched a pair of teenage girls giggle and snap selfies with a group of bare-chested boys playing drums on plastic buckets.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



## Meet the locals, steal their trash, and throw them in a hole in entertaining puzzle game

By Christopher Byrd  
Special to The Washington Post

“Donut County” is an upbeat game about being a callous worker, someone entitled and destructive who thinks he is a good guy. You upend the lives of people and ruin different environments with rollicking abandon.

In between stages of sanctioned mischief, you’re greeted with the salty salutation, “Have a Garbage Day!” spelled out in shimmering letters beneath a droopy flower. Though “Donut County” gestures toward the topic of gentrification, it does so with wink-winks rather than somber, moral resentment. It’s far more likely to elicit a smile than to push one toward activism.

Players assume the role of BK, a raccoon whose name conjures the idea of gentrified Brooklyn. BK has benefited from the recent influx of raccoons into the county. In their bid to corner much of the real estate market, the raccoons purchase a donut shop from a coyote whose life has taken a downturn such that he has to live in a tent.

At the start of the game, BK sends a text to his human friend and donut shop co-worker, Mira. Mira is miffed because of the honking sound coming from the moped-driving bird stationed on the street outside of her house. BK tells her not to fret before cryptically adding that he is going to send “a donut” to her troublemaker.

The donut in question is a hole in the ground — sent from an app on BK’s phone — that players can move around using a mouse or a gamepad. Zip a hole beneath an object whose dimensions are less than the hole’s circumference, and the object will vanish from sight. The more objects the hole devours, the larger it grows.

After vanquishing Mira’s feathered noise polluter, the story cuts to six weeks later, 999 feet below Donut County, in a large earthen vault. There, an irate Mira smashes BK’s prized quadcopter. When a stunned BK asks her why she smashed his drone, she replies it was in response to his destruction of the entire town. From there, the game moves back and forth between the victims of BK’s donuts, who share their stories about how they became trapped underground, and the (devilishly fun) incidents that led to their predicament.

Growing your “donut”/hole so that it’s large

enough to devour the objects in its path often requires solving puzzles that are more clever than challenging. Thus, one puzzle may cause you to fill up a hole with soup to attract pests while another may cause you expel an object from a hole to hit a pertinent target using the catapult feature acquired later in the game.

“Donut County” creator Ben Esposito said the game was inspired by the Twitter account @PeterMolydeux, which parodies the musings of the famous game designer Peter Molyneux. At a game jam in L.A. in 2012, Esposito decided to run with one of the ideas thrown out by @PeterMolydeux — to make a game about a hole in the ground.

“I knew early on that it was going to be a game about erasure ... about erasing a place, about the bittersweetness of that,” Esposito said. “I wanted to make a game about gentrification because it is set in [an extremely fantastical version of L.A.], but originally I was having a lot of trouble with that story because it’s not a clean one. It’s extremely complicated and messy, and it hurts a lot of people and displaces a lot of people and other people stand to gain from it, and there is no easy moral that you can take away ...

It’s so interconnected with capitalism and the way cities are run, etc., etc. ... I knew I couldn’t tell a story like, ‘yeah, this is happening — oh, by the way, it’s bad — and here is the solution,’ because there is no clean solution.”

Esposito said he decided to have players step into the role of a gentrifier because, “I think that is a good starting point for thinking about the problem, about how you may be affecting it one way or another.”

I thoroughly enjoyed the few hours I spent playing through “Donut County.” I was charmed by the game’s excellent soundtrack, funny dialogue and the breadth of its puzzles. BK’s journey from a clueless destroyer to a dissembling hero didn’t make me think any differently about gentrification, but it did, for a spell, take my mind off other real-world cares, which was welcome all the same.

Platforms: iOS, Mac, PC, PlayStation 4  
Online: donutcounty.com



“Donut County” is a little bit about gentrification, and a whole lot of fun.

Photos courtesy of Annapurna Interactive

# WEEKEND: MUSIC

By RANDY LEWIS  
Los Angeles Times

It's often said that belonging to a band is akin to being in a family. It's an analogy that New Zealand popemeister Neil Finn has taken to heart over the years.

For every venerated collaborative project such as Split Enz, Crowded House or 7 Worlds Collide, he's alternately brought members of his biological and matrimonial families together to record and tour.

He's adding one more musical family to his artistic résumé in joining Fleetwood Mac. Finn, along with Tom Petty's longtime lead guitarist and frequent co-songwriter Mike Campbell, will be a part of the first major realignment of that group's lineup since the '70s, a shift that's occurred in the wake of Lindsey Buckingham's departure.

"It's starting to add up to a pretty strange track history," Finn, 60, said over lunch recently on a shady covered concrete slab in Griffith Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, where he was joined by his son Liam, who also has been part of an impressive panoply of musical ensembles during his 34 years.

"I've said it on a few occasions," Neil continued, "that I probably confuse the general public anyway from having been in so many different incarnations."

Now add "Lightsleeper," the first Neil & Liam Finn album, which was released Aug. 24. It's an outing that skillfully marries Neil's insinuatingly catchy and melodic pop-rock with the more expansive and experimental jam-rooted music Liam has specialized in on several solo albums he's released over the past decade.

It's simply the latest project in a career that's often put his family in the spotlight. Split Enz, the first group that introduced him to audiences beyond his native country, was formed in 1973 by his older brother, Tim.

He also worked with Tim in the Finn Brothers (as well as in Crowded House, from time to time), and with his singer-bassist wife, Sharon, in Pajama Game. In addition to Liam, he's also played with his other son, Elroy.

The process of recording "Lightsleeper" — he also had a hand in Neil's surprising (to many) move to join Fleetwood Mac. Ultimately, the pairing evolved from the same spirit that has guided most of Finn's other collaborations: not from jockeying for rock star cachet, but out of musical camaraderie.

"I'd got to know Mick (Fleetwood) a little bit," Neil said. "I'd met him a few times over the years and we'd always got on well. He's a very charming, easy-to-get-on-with kind of guy. Then we went out to dinner with them when they came to Auckland and I probably just dropped it in the hat, 'We're going to do some recording — Liam and I — would you...?'"

At this point, Liam jumps in to pick up the tale.

"He said, 'If you ever need a drummer, I love playing music. Keep me in mind.' When I got back to New Zealand to start writing, I just said, 'Shelley and me, Mick Fleetwood if he wants to play drums?' It was like, 'What?' Then he did it, and Mick said, 'Yep, I'll be there,' and it was like within a week or two, it was organized and he was down there. It was surreal. I'd never met him, and I'm a big Fleetwood Mac fan. So it was pretty crazy."

Fleetwood appears on a couple of the 11 tracks that make up "Lightsleeper," an album that's been in the making for two years. The invitation to throw in with Fleetwood Mac came up fairly recently, after Fleetwood, John McVie, Christine McVie and Stevie Nicks parted ways with Buckingham, with whom they'd reached an impasse over touring and recording priorities.

"It was like a friend ringing up rather



Neil Finn, above, has been part of several hands that incorporated members of his biological and matrimonial families, such as Split Enz, Crowded House and 7 Worlds Collide. Most recently, he has collaborated with Liam Finn, inset, and joined Fleetwood Mac.

Neil Finn photo courtesy of EMI; Liam Finn courtesy of Pitch Perfect PR

## Family ties

### Neil Finn on his new album with son, joining post-Buckingham Fleetwood Mac

than getting a cold call from a professional manager or something to say, 'Hey, would you like to join?' It felt significantly different as an invitation, although there was nothing certain at that point," Neil said of the initial conversations. "Part of my enthusiasm for giving it a shot was knowing that Mick's a good guy and that we got on well and he's also the keeper of the fame there."

Finn recognizes that some Buckingham enthusiasts might not take kindly to the new lineup.

"Some people will be resistant, and I don't blame them," he said. "You fall in love with a band. I thought about it when the invitation came along. I had a nice note of encouragement from a friend of a friend, somebody saying, 'Remember, you're not replacing Lindsay Buckingham; you're joining Fleetwood Mac.' And I think that's a nice way to look at it."

The new family spirit has already begun kicking in. In early May, when Neil and Liam played another of the shows they've been doing together and separate-

ly for two decades at the L.A. nightclub Largo, Nicks looked on, often with a broad smile, from her seat in the audience, and Campbell joined for some engaging back-and-forth guitar exchanges with his new Mac bandmate.

Neil and Liam are tackling the challenge of promoting "Lightsleeper" while working around Neil's new extra-familial commitment. "These guys were really great," Neil said. "Liam and Elroy both said: 'You have to go and stand in a room with Fleetwood Mac and have a sing, wouldn't you?' You have to."

Added Liam, "How could you not? Even if it means we can't tour our record. You've gotta do it."

Recent events, especially in the music world, have also informed the Finns' thinking about spending more time together as a family, and Neil's attitude toward hooking up with Nicks, Fleetwood and the McVies. Not least among them Tom Petty's death last fall, which shook many. "It was a shock," Neil said. "It was a really big shock for Stevie as well. She

## Neil & Liam Finn

Lightsleeper (Inertia/PIAS)

"Lightsleeper" is the result of another crowded house at the Finn residence. The album principals, father Neil and son Liam, get the rest of the family involved — mother Sharon, son Elroy, nephew Harper — and also provide room and board to one of Neil's new Fleetwood Mac bandmates, Mick Fleetwood.

On the surface, "Lightsleeper" is closer to the Finn family's foundational Split Enz era than to the more renowned Crowded House productions, with dreamy atmospheres, multi-section song structures and hazy shades of melody providing the framework, not tight pop songs with instantly memorable refrains.

Most of the tracks are father-and-son co-writes, but Neil wrote album opener "Prelude - Island of Peace" with an uplifting, congenial choir, as a gift for Liam's wedding.

"Meet Me In The Air" follows, its relaxed harmonies harking back to the 'Surf's Up'-period Beach Boys, while "Where's My Room," which seems to describe a musician's unenviable condition near the end of a long tour, begins with what sounds like an updated Roland drum machine and, over seven minutes across various "movements," keeps adding elements, including a string section that at times emulates the sounds of Philly soul.

The theatrical, character-rich "Ghosts" is where the Split Enz influence — or is that Liam's more experimental side? — is clearest, while album finale "Hold Her Close" is a lullaby that includes practical tips for parents.

As with any music involving a Finn, the vocals are one of the main reasons for listening, and the father-son combo more than meets expectations. Neil's voice is still a tad sweeter, but Liam's phrasing is very similar and no less expressive, and they complete each other fabulously.

Ideal for late-night listening, "Lightsleeper" demonstrates that with talents such as these at hand, it makes sense to keep it all in the family.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press

commented on it, and that's all had a part to play in their decision-making process. I didn't know anyone [in the group] other than Mick, so hearing him talk about it, and hearing Stevie say stuff like 'We just want to have fun' [was comforting].

"Tom's gone — out of nowhere," he said. Added Liam: "Life's too short." So when the call comes to join Fleetwood Mac, one probably shouldn't overthink it.

"They're making decisions based on the idea that they want to enjoy these years of touring," Neil said. "That was comforting to me, from a musician's point of view, that people are doing it for the right reasons. We've got a sense of fun that has been commented on before. We always bring to our touring, live shows or even rehearsing — that sense that it's not worth it if it's not fun."

## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

**Amos Lee**

My New Moon (Dualtone Music)

A lot of singers have put out angry music in the Trump era, but Amos Lee might have written the first great protest song: “Crooked,” a smoldering, darkly humorous hymn about a “crooked leader on a crooked stage” who “seems to think he’s standing tall.” Lee, 41, a veteran Philadelphia singer-songwriter who has worked with Norah Jones and Willie Nelson, does not absolve himself (and, by extension, the rest of us) from blame in the song: “Turns out that I’m crooked, too,” he sings, in his understated rasp.

The rest of “My New Moon” is pristinely written, arranged and performed, of a piece with Lee’s seven previous albums, notably 2013’s hit “Mountains of Sorrow, Rivers of Song.” It begins with “All You Got Is a Song,” in which an R&B orchestra with fantastic backup vocalists empathizes with Lee’s chorus about singing away the pain, and peaks with a going-home anthem about Louisville, Ky.

Lee has spent 15-some years perfecting a soothing rock-and-soul style in the same ballpark as younger contemporaries Leon Bridges and Nathaniel Rateliff, but of all the strong material on “My New Moon,” it’s “Crooked” that suggests a potent new direction.

—Steve Knopper  
Newsday

**Iron & Wine**

Weed Garden (Sub Pop)

For fans of Iron & Wine, it’s already Christmas. “Weed Garden” is a six-track EP including songs written by Sam Beam mostly while working toward his last full album, “Beast Epic,” and they sound very much like it.

“Beast Epic,” released a year ago, marked not just Beam’s return to Sub Pop, but also to a more uncluttered style. While still backed by a full band, both the EP and its predecessor benefit from a regained intimacy that boosts the directness of Beam’s vocals and his bandmates’ harmonies.

On opener “What Hurts Worse,” there are attempts to reconcile the idealistic aspects of a relationship with what’s actually achievable before it all crumbles, while “Last of Your Rock ‘n’ Roll Heroes” has a vibe like Tim Hardin fronting Stephen Stills’ Manassas and a disheveled, rickety protagonist who’s searching and struggling but also learning a life lesson every day.

Beam’s surprise gift is the exquisite “Waves of Galveston,” a fan favorite getting its first official release. Its ‘70s-sounding refrain caresses the eardrums, and Nick Drake might have sounded like this if singing about Texas.

There are plenty of references to nature, but it’s all related to the human experience, and the final three songs sustain the theme. Especially affecting are the gorgeous “Autumn Town Leaves” and the increasingly intense and desperate closer “Talking to Fog.”

“Weed Garden” is both a wonderful bonus in relation to “Beast Epic” and an enchanting collection that deserves to be valued for its own plentiful merits.

—Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press

**Troye Sivan**

Bloom (EMI)

On his second album, 23-year-old Australian singer Troye Sivan has discovered a pop road map that allows him to sing about torrid affairs and white-hot romantic desperation in a way that’s contemplative and gently soulful. In a duet with Ariana Grande over a typically sparse beat in “Dance to This,” he recalls bringing a lover home from “all the parties,” and spills out an earnest, irresistible come-on: “Under the kitchen lights / You still look like dynamite.”

Much of “Bloom” unfolds according to this theme and style: Attraction is peaking, sex is on the way, tenderness is critical, instrumentation is minimal. Sivan has a sweet, cool, understated voice, and he infrequently busts it out, Mariah Carey-style, so the novelty of his soaring tenor toward the end of the minor-key piano ballad “Postcard” gives it the feel of an operatic crescendo.

Sivan scatters clichés throughout the album — “I wanna be with you,” “I die every night with you,” “I am an animal with you,” the booming drums that offset the acoustic guitar at the end of “The Good Side” — and it is sometimes so minimalist that it becomes uninteresting. He is endearing and earnest, though, and knows what to do with a song. “My My My!,” an early-2018 smash (37 million YouTube views), has a killer, inverted-NSYNC chorus; the title track is nicely self-aware about the precociousness of young love. “I bloom / I bloom / Just for you,” Sivan sings, to windswept electronic production. The moments of great beauty would be more powerful if Sivan didn’t make the rare pop-star mistake of holding back.

—Steve Knopper  
Newsday

**Ryan Culwell**

The Last American (Missing Piece Records)

The list of legendary musicians who migrated from Texas to Nashville to make it big is so long you’d think the journey was easy.

It is not.

Just ask Ryan Culwell, whose 2015 album, “Flatlands,” was so good it seemed to rise with the heat right out of the Texas dust. It might have had more glowing reviews than turns on the radio, though, this being the state of commercial country music these days.

Now, after supporting himself with a series of odd jobs, including a turn as a Nashville pedal-tavern driver, the Texas native is back with another fine record. His latest, “The Last American,” might not be quite as Texan as “Flatlands,” but it fits the present moment better.

Culwell ranges around on this one, maybe a little too much. As he migrates from the rocking “Can You Hear Me” to the angry “Dig a Hole” to the gentle lullaby of “Moon Hangs Down,” it sometimes feels like he’s trying on styles.

Culwell’s talent is obvious throughout, though, and the timing feels right for a canon of intelligent, rough-edged songs about the frustration, the yearning, the turmoil and the stress of living at this complicated moment in America — armed only, as he sings in the title cut, with “my old man’s heart and a broke-down Chevrolet.”

With lyrics that good and a voice as honest as a Panhandle sunset, Ryan Culwell keeps making important music. If he stays the course, his work will find its way.

—Scott Stroud  
Associated Press





## WEEKEND: FALL BOOKS PREVIEW

# What to read this fall

## New autumn books include topical works for all ages

By HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

**A**t a time when millions can hardly turn away from the news, fiction and nonfiction authors have similar reasons for why books matter more than ever. It's about perspective.

"I think that people need stories to help us understand our place in the world and remember that we're part of something bigger," says Barbara Kingsolver, whose novel "Unsheltered" is one of the leading literary releases this fall.

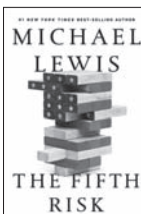
"Stories from the past, history, give you a sense of empowerment and make you feel like you can make a difference," said Doris K. Goodwin, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian whose "Leadership: In Turbulent Times" reflects on Abraham Lincoln, Lyndon B. Johnson and other presidents. "History isn't just about what people did before, but what we can take from that and use today."

Many fall releases will come within weeks, even days, of the most suspenseful midterm elections in memory. They will compete for attention not just with campaign news, but with nonfiction releases that may affect the results, such as Bob Woodward's "Fear: Trump in the White House" and Michael Lewis' investigation of the Commerce Department under Trump, "The Fifth Risk." Other timely works include "Contempt," a memoir by former special prosecutor Kenneth Starr expected to come out during scheduled hearings for one of his former underlings, Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump's nominee to replace Anthony Kennedy on the Supreme Court. Memoirs also are coming from former first lady Michelle Obama, whose "Becoming" is one of the year's most anticipated nonfiction books, and former Secretary of State John Kerry.

Goodwin's book won't be the only work of history likely to inspire discussions about the present. Andrew Roberts' "Churchill: Walking With Destiny" and David W. Blight's "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom" tell of historical figures who remain influential. Jill Lepore's 900-page U.S. history "These Truths" has a running theme of the role of facts and reason in a democracy. Lepore began writing her book years ago, well before terms such as "alternative facts" and "fake news," which dates back to the 1930s, should be part of contemporary political debate.

"That's what the study of history remedies: The past remains," Lepore wrote in a recent email to The Associated Press. "What's a book that chronicles the past good for? It requires stopping, squinting, casting your mind back — thinking, and wondering. History teaches, it comforts, it stirs."

Besides "Unsheltered," literary fiction includes Haruki Murakami's "The Killing" and "The Kinship of Secrets," Gary

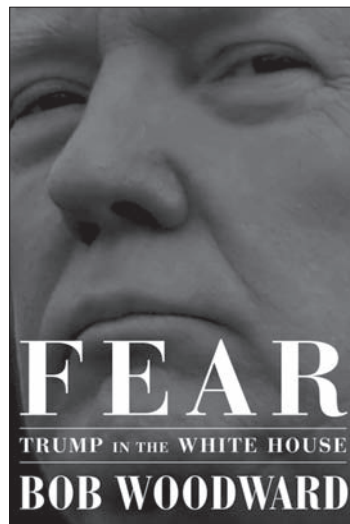
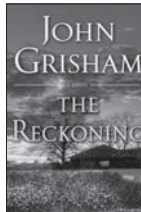
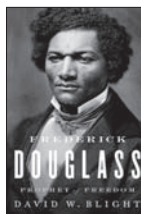


Shynegart's "Lake Success" and, for those who really want to get away from the headlines, the 2,000-page "Anniversaries: From a Year in the Life of Gesine Cresspahl," a novel by the late German author Uwe Johnson.

New releases also are coming from John Grisham, Mitch Albom, Sara Paretsky and Michael Connelly. James Bond lives on in Anthony Horowitz's "Forever and a Day," while Prince Lestat returns in Anne Rice's "Blood Communion." J.K. Rowling continues her detective writing with the Robert Galbraith novel "Lethal White." Alice Walker, Natasha Trethewey and Marilyn Chin have poetry books out this fall, and a posthumous collection is expected from Ursula K. Le Guin. Essay collections are coming from a handful of writers better known for fiction — Jonathan Franzen, Colm Toibin and Ben Fountain — and from a nonfiction master, John McPhee, whose "The Patch" is scheduled for November.

"I find that some of the same principles apply to fiction and nonfiction," said McPhee, a longtime New Yorker correspondent and Princeton University professor. "The basic stuff about structure and all the rest of it is common to all writing: You better have some plan."

Athletes and celebrities have their own stories to share. Joe Namath looks back in "All the Way: Football, Fame, and Redemption," while "Pitino: My Story" is a memoir by basketball coach Rick Pitino. Tina Turner, whose best-selling memoir "I, Tina," came out in the 1980s, follows with "My Life Story." The Who's Roger Daltrey has written "Thanks a Lot Mr. Kibblewhite: My Story," while the man who replaced Keith Moon on drums, Kenney Jones, will publish "Let the Good Times Roll: My Life in Small Faces, Faces, and The Who." Oscar winner Sally Field has written "In Pieces" and Eric Idle's memoir urges Monty Python fans, once



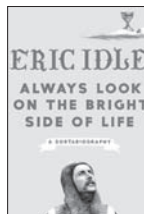
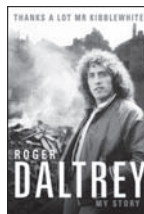
again, to "Always Look at the Bright Side of Life."

"I'm an optimist, a fearful optimist. We have everything to worry about," Idle said during a recent telephone interview. "We must always look at the bright side, right? Even though we have no chance."

Books for young people will include Kate DiCamillo's "Louisiana's Way Home" and Ransom Riggs' "A Map of Days," her fourth Miss Peregrine novel. Other new releases are tied to current events. "A Map of Days" is a picture book by Susan Wood and Sarah Green. The anthology "We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices" includes contributions from Jason Reynolds and Kwame Alexander among others. Carol Anderson and Tonya Bolden have collaborated on "We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide," and Dave Eggers has teamed with illustrator Shawn Harris on "What Can a Citizen Do?"

Jacqueline Woodson, a National Book Award winner and currently the U.S. young literature ambassador, wrote an open letter to her children for "We Rise, We Resist" and has two of her own books due. Her picture story "The Day You Begin" offers encouragement to young people starting out at a new school, including "When you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you." In "Harbor Me," a middle grade book, six kids find strength in telling each other about deportation, racial profiling and other concerns in their lives.

"I think part of the storyteller's job has always been to take in the narrative of the moment and time, and add some elements of hope to it," Woodson says. "Because if we straight up read the news, we can be some really sad people. It's about finding the light in whatever moment that feels kind of shadowed and finding a historical context. People have always survived, and our ancestors have survived worse than this moment."



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**“Bull: Season Two”:** There are two types of scripted TV series: serialized and a string of standalone episodes. The CBS series starring Michael Weatherly falls into the single story category. There are a few threads that run through the season but overall, the courtroom drama featuring Dr. Jason Bull (Weatherly) is for those who don’t want to be hampered by having to know what happened last week and the week before. It’s no-fuss TV. The series was inspired by the early career of Dr. Phil McGraw when he ran a trial consulting firm. Bull and his Trial Analysis Corporation employees can predict how a jury is going to vote before the deliberations start. The drama comes from how each week, the team must take a jury stacked against their client and will them over. If you are looking for escapist viewing, “Bull” is a guilty pleasure.



CBS

**Iain Armitage is the title character in the TV series “Young Sheldon.” The first season of the CBS comedy is now out on DVD.**

**“Young Sheldon”:** The CBS comedy takes a look at Dr. Sheldon Cooper (played by Jim Parsons on “The Big Bang Theory”) when he was a 9-year-old genius (Iain Armitage) growing up in East Texas. Fans of the original series get to see how Sheldon dealt with being the smartest kid in the room, where his fear of chickens comes from, the origin of his love for Professor Proton and other bits of history about the character. The big problem is that while a grown-up Cooper can get away with being rude, antisocial, obnoxious and a braggart, these are not traits that work well for a child. Instead of being a lovely misfit, the young Sheldon is just annoying. The only reason worth watching is to see how bits of Dr. Cooper’s past revealed on storylines.

Also available on DVD:  
**“Adventure Time: The Final Season”**  
**“Timeless: Season 2”**  
**“Supernatural: The Complete Thirteenth Season”**

**“Superstore: Season Three”**  
**“The Goldbergs: Season 5”**  
**“Adrift”:** Young couple struggle to survive in a battle at sea with Mother Nature. Shailene Woodley stars.

**“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”:** Documentary looks at Fred Rogers, the man behind “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”

**“Hawaii Five-0: The Eighth Season”:** This season of the CBS police drama set in Hawaii features several new cast members. Alex O’Loughlin stars.

**“Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: Year Nineteen”**

**“Silicon Valley: The Complete Fifth Season”**

**“Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In: The Complete Sixth Season”:** Guest stars on this wacky variety show include Steve Allen, Jack Benny, Carol Burnett, Johnny Carson and Howard Cosell.

**“Truth or Dare”:** A game being played by a group of teens quickly turns serious when the dares become more and more dangerous.  
**“Trench 11”:** Highly contagious biological weapon that was created by German forces during WWI is discovered by Allied troops as they explore an underground bunker.

**“Hostile”:** A woman must survive a car accident in the middle of the desert made even more deadly by creatures in a post-apocalyptic world.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service



CBS

**Above: Jay Hernandez, right, stars in the reboot “Magnum P.I.”**

# Tube time

And just like that, September is here, along with dozens of new series. Where to begin?

## ON AFN

**“Magnum P.I.” (Sept. 25, AFN-Prime):** Like CBS’ other action reboots (“MacGyver,” “Hawaii Five-0”), you can expect lots of bullets, bombs and explosions (poor Hawaii can’t catch a break). Your new Thomas Magnum is Jay Hernandez, who’s maybe best known from “Scandal,” while the new Higgins is a Juliet (Perrita Weeks, “Ready Player One”).

**“This Is Us” (Sept. 26, AFN-Pulse):** Now that we know how Jack (Milo Ventimiglia) died, how did he live? What — specifically — did he do in Vietnam, and how did that shape him? The third season promises a time-reversal back to the war, along with more questions, perhaps some answers: Who was Nicky, Jack’s brother? Apparently Nicky died in Vietnam, but how? Oh, and what will happen to Beth (Susan Kelechi Watson), last heard saying, “I’m not ready to see her?” Who’s “her”? As usual, “Us” is all about the questions.

**“70th Primetime Emmy Awards” (Sept. 17):** What’s most intriguing are the hosts, “SNL’s” Michael Che and Colin Hanks, who promise a why-are-we-even-here? irreverence. In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Jost said the Emmys are “focused on things that 99 percent of the country doesn’t care about.” Uh-huh.

## Available on other media

\* all dates U.S.

**“Kidding” (Showtime, Sept. 9):** In his first regular series gig since “In Living Color,” Jim Carrey is a Fred Rogers-like kids TV host with a loving heart and tenuous grasp of his sanity. Poor Mr. Pickles does eventually lose his mind. Along with the impressive cast — Cath-

**Below: Jonah Hill and Emma Stone star in the Netflix series “Maniac.”**



Netflix

erine Keener, Frank Langella and Judy Greer co-star — there’s another bonus here: “Kidding” marks Carrey’s reunion with Oscar-winner Michel Gondry, who directs. The last time they worked together was on “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.”

**“The First” (Hulu, Sept. 14):** Sean Penn’s first TV series — and no, “Friends” does not count — will fictionally take him to Mars, as a member of a team of astronauts. Besides Penn, the other big stars along for the interplanetary ride include Natascha McElhone and LisaGay Hamilton as crewmates.

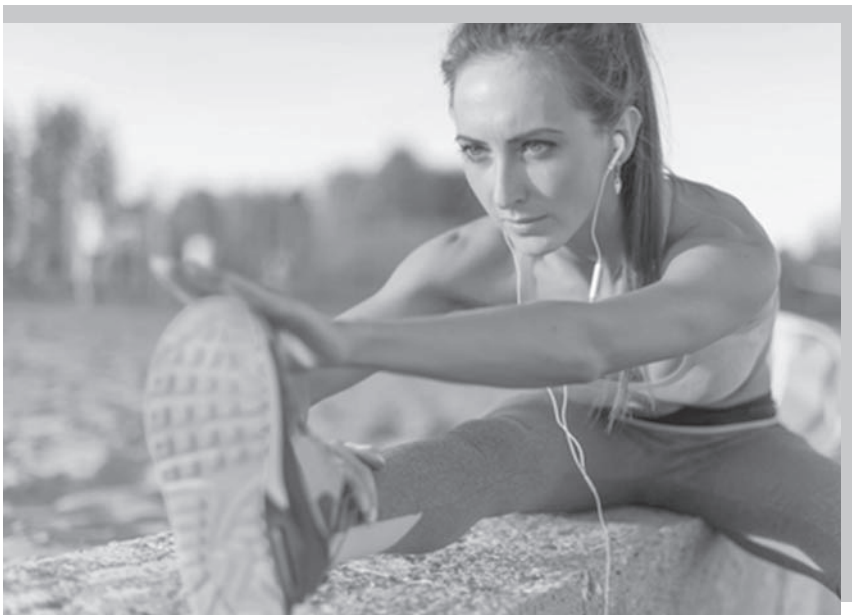
**“Maniac” (Netflix, Sept. 21):** Annie Landsberg (Emma Stone) and Owen Milgrim (Jonah Hill) are invited to a pharmaceutical trial. They have no idea what this is about, but — what the heck! — it offers a cure to (in her case) bad relationships and (in his) schizophrenia. A sinister trial doctor (Justin Theroux) promises no side effects. Right. This “Inception”-like mind-twister is also supposed to be a comedy. A dark one.

**“Manifest” (NBC, Sept. 24):** NBC posted the first act of this newcomer on YouTube — a shrewd move because it also generated what sneak peeks are supposed to: interest. A plane leaves Jamaica on April 7, 2013, then touches down on Nov. 4, 2018. Sure, history’s worst and longest flight, but also a mystery. What happened to the darn thing? After five years’ absence, no one on board has aged a day. But people on the ground have.

**“Murphy Brown” (CBS, Sept. 27):** And speaking of questions, this reboot begs ‘em. Much of the original cast returns, including Candice Bergen, without whom this series would never have been possible, then or now. But how will “Murphy” be updated?

—Verne Gay/Newsday

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS



Warming up pumps nutrient-rich, oxygenated blood to your muscles as it speeds up your heart rate and breathing. A good warmup should last five to 10 minutes and work all major muscle groups.

# STAYING STRONG

## Warmups slow down loss of fitness between workouts

By WINA STURGEON  
Adventure Sports Weekly

**U**nless you are an elite athlete making money from your sport, it's hard to stay religious about conditioning. At times, there will come an irresistible urge to skip your scheduled training.

You may be tired, the gym may be too crowded, or you simply may not feel like working out. You may be out of town and days may go by before you get back to your regular training sessions. If that happens to you, at least do a warmup. The most important reason for doing a warmup during those times when your exercise program is skipped is that it will help slow down your loss of fitness.

The fact is, muscles have no loyalty. They don't care how dutifully you worked out last month. If you're not exercising now, your strength, flexibility and conditioning will start to fade and diminish. That will begin within a week. If you get no exercise for two weeks, you can lose as much as 10 percent of your fitness, according to many scientific studies.

That's the reason you feel so shaky when you get up after you've been bedridden with something like the flu or a condition that required hospitalization.

The worst part is that you can't rush to regain the lost fitness. It must be done slowly and carefully so that the now-weaker muscles and connective tissue (tendons and ligaments) get back to their former strength and flexibility without being injured.

Meanwhile, if you can't get to the gym or outside for a run or a bike ride, a good warmup will

give you many of the benefits of a more serious workout. A warmup is basically 'going through the motions.' It can include jogging in place, squatting and standing up 10 times, swinging your arms in circles, bending joints by twisting and flexing your body or any other kind of movement that pumps blood into the muscles.

A thorough warmup will work all the muscles and joints of the body. An energetic one can make you sweat. Kick up the speed and it will be an aerobic workout. While a good training session should last at least an hour, warming up the body needs only 15 minutes.

Never do a warmup just before bedtime. That kind of activity may make it harder to fall asleep or to stay asleep. Don't do it upon getting up in the morning; your body needs to 'wake up' after laying relatively still for (hopefully) eight hours.

After you have raised the temperature in the muscles and tissues of your body, it's a good time to stretch. Connective tissues will be softer and more pliable so you will get a greater range of motion in the stretch, making you more flexible. Flexibility is important for any athlete, whether a newbie or a professional.

Some good moves to make in a warmup include squatting down on the balls of your feet and balancing for 10 seconds, bringing the elbows out to the side and lifting them as high as possible, and doing walking lunges across the room and back again while balancing your body mass between both legs.

Going through the motions is particularly useful after a long airplane ride or even a long drive. Restoring mobility to the body by making it warmer internally will help you retain your fitness even if you're not in the gym.

## Magic of mushrooms still yet to be proven

It wasn't that long ago that mushrooms were for pizza, and portobellos were considered exotic. Now purveyors of chaga, lion's mane and reishi mushrooms are promoting them as enhancements to beverages, not to food. And they're making hefty health claims in the process.

These fungi are becoming increasingly popular in the form of powdered extracts, which are typically used to make mushroom teas and "coffee." In traditional Indian and Chinese medicines, they're classified as "adaptogens" because they're believed to help your body "adapt" to stress. The alleged benefits include boosting energy levels, easing depression and even curing cancer.

But what does the research tell us about these claims?

Despite the widely touted claims of health benefits and centuries of use in traditional medicine, the merits of mushrooms haven't been proved by science. Here's what the research reveals so far:

**Chaga:** Studies in isolated cells and animals suggest that chaga might help boost the immune system and destroy cancer cells. There haven't been human studies yet to show whether this effect carries over.

**Lion's mane:** This mushroom might be beneficial for brain health, although most of the research has been done on mice. Rodent studies suggest that lion's mane could prevent damage to neurons caused by beta-amyloid plaques, which occurs in Alzheimer's disease. Studies have not found a demonstrable effect on depression or anxiety.

**Reishi:** Studies on its health benefits have had mixed results. A small study of 10 people found that taking a reishi mushroom supplement for 10 days increased the levels of some antioxidants in the blood, which suggests potential heart health benefits.

A follow-up study of 18 people taking reishi mushroom for a month didn't replicate these results.

Research also shows mixed results for the effects of reishi mushrooms on blood sugar and cholesterol levels, with one study finding that reishi mushrooms led to lower blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and another study finding no significant impact.

Although these mushrooms may be "natural," that doesn't make them harmless. For example, chaga is high in oxalates, compounds that reduce nutrient absorption and could damage the kidneys in large amounts.

Any of these mushrooms could interact with medications, supplements or herbs you're taking. Always talk to your doctor before trying a new herb or supplement.

— Christy Brissette  
The Washington Post



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Vaping more than tobacco

Teens among those finding new ways to consume marijuana

By ANA B. IBARRA  
Kaiser Health News

**B**y now, many parents know kids are vaping sweet-smelling tobacco — often using devices that look deceptively like pens or flash drives. And most parents are hip to the prevalence of underage marijuana use.

Now comes a combo of the two: vaping pot. Experts and educators say young people are — once again — one step ahead of the adults in their lives, experimenting with this new and more heady way to consume weed.

"It's only a matter of time" before adolescents are vaping nicotine and pot in equal measure, said Mila Vascones-Gatski, a substance abuse counselor at Arlington Public Schools in Virginia. "Anything in liquid form can go into a vape, and that's scary."

Surveys provide a snapshot of the problem.

Among California high schoolers who have used an electronic smoking device, 27 percent said they used it with some form of cannabis, according to a report by the state Department of Public Health, based on 2016 data, the latest available.

Nationally, among high school seniors, 16 percent said they used a vaping device in the past year, 11 percent said they had vaped cannabis, according to a 2017 survey by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the University of Michigan. More than half said they vaped "just flavoring" and about 35 percent said nicotine.

The California Department of Public Health says researchers do not fully understand how using cannabis oils and waxes with vapes affects health. What they do know is that vaporized cannabis can contain a lot more THC, the cannabis ingredient responsible for psychoactive effects such as anxiety and paranoia. "When you make it into an oil or wax, the (THC) concentration can be very high," Vascones-Gatski said. "This is when psychotic symptoms are intensified."

Recreational marijuana use is illegal among children in all states. In California, such use was legalized for adults 21 and older beginning this year. Critics argue the change could make pot more accessible to young people, although researchers say it is too early to tell.

Meanwhile, as vaping becomes more popular and socially acceptable, more young people are bound to try pot in this form, said Stanton Glantz, professor of medicine and director of the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at University of California-San Francisco.

"You are starting to see the much more aggressive push for flavors" in the cannabis liquids, he said.

Some popular cannabis oil flavors include mint, jasmine, banana smoothie, pumpkin spice and gummy fish, according to industry sites.

Even if the cannabis industry



DIEDRA LAIRD, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS

Some experts say the dangers of pot vaping among kids need to be made more clear, and that the vaping industry needs more regulation.

says its target is not youth, there is no denying that fruitily smells attract kids, Glantz said.

Zoei, a 14-year-old student at Lodi High School, about 40 minutes south of Sacramento, Calif., has seen — and smelled — that firsthand. Students who vape pot in school follow up by spraying perfume or cologne to conceal the smell because — while fruitily — "it still smells like weed," said Zoei, who spoke on condition that her last name not be used.

**Vaporized cannabis can contain a lot more THC, the cannabis ingredient responsible for psychoactive effects such as anxiety and paranoia.**

Some of her schoolmates vape both marijuana and nicotine in restrooms, the cafeteria, even in classrooms, despite signs around campus warning kids not to vape, she said.

She tried vaping nicotine juice once after being attracted by a sweet strawberry smell. She hasn't vaped pot yet, but confessed she's curious. If it were offered to her, she'd probably try it, but not at school where most kids get caught, she said.

"I just want to see what happens," she said.

Some experts say the dangers of pot vaping among kids are receiving less attention than they should, and that the vaping industry needs more regulation.

"Schools tell us that tobacco prevention is important, but we really need something on marijuana," said Ryan Crowdis, with the Tobacco-Use Prevention Education program at the Orange County Department

of Education. "The problem is our hands are tied because our funding comes from the tobacco tax revenue, so that's what we have to focus on."

The state Department of Education said it expects to receive funding from Proposition 64, the ballot measure that legalized recreational pot, in the 2019-20 budget to help fund education and awareness around youth use of marijuana.

Industry representatives deny trying to appeal to youths. "In no way, shape or form do I see brands trying to ingratiate children or underage users. There's plenty of business in the adult market," said Farley Cahen, the founder and CEO of Elevated Agency, which does marketing for cannabis companies.

Cahen said the California law legalizing recreational pot for adults came with strict packaging regulations that prohibit language or wrapping that could be attractive to children.

Cannabis oils can come in pre-loaded cartridges — also called pods — that are inserted into vaping devices. One popular marijuana pen-and-pod device is the Pax Era, which is often referred to as the "iPhone of vapes" because of its high-tech features, said Stephan Lambert, a prevention coordinator at the Orange County Department of Education.

The Pax Era is manufactured by the parent company of the Juul, a vape pen for tobacco use that burst onto the teen scene within the past two years and has become a nightmare for schools because of its resemblance to a flash drive. The Pax Era looks similar to the Juul.

But teens are tech-savvy and aren't necessarily buying devices made just for marijuana. For instance, Lambert said, they're learning how to refill their Juul pods, the cartridges that contain e-juice, with different blends, including marijuana oils, with the help of video tutorials on YouTube.

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## New study aims to help military families grieve

**I**t's so easy to be indifferent. I tend to become absorbed in my own daily minutia. Flossing my teeth, walking the dog, checking emails, paying bills, planning vacations, watching my latest shows — I often forget that there are thousands of families in our military community who are grieving.

According to an Aug. 28 update of Department of Defense casualty statistics, nearly 7,000 active-duty military members have died while serving in U.S. overseas military contingency operations since Sept. 11, 2001. But war-related casualties account for only about a quarter of all active-duty military deaths since that fateful day. Military service, whether associated with an ongoing American war or not, is dangerous. Many more active-duty service personnel — about 920 every year — die in circumstances not directly related to war.

Of the 15,851 active-duty military deaths since 2006, 4,510 were war-related, and 7,857 were caused by accidents or were self-inflicted, according to the Congressional Research Service. Another 2,650 deaths were attributed to illnesses or injuries, and 248 were undetermined.

Of course, most military service personnel who die have families — parents, siblings, spouses and children. So regardless of the cause of death, the potential wake of grief left behind is exponential. Worse yet, bereavement for military families tends to become prolonged and complicated because the deceased are likely to be young, and their deaths are often violent and unexpected. Studies have shown that military families can develop chronic, severe grief symptoms that last for years, including "persistent yearning and longing, preoccupation with the deceased or circumstances of the death, difficulty accepting the death, bitterness and anger related to the loss, avoidance of reminders of the deceased or the death, and feeling life is meaningless without the deceased," according to the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

A new study is attempting to help. The Department of Defense Congressionally-Directed Medical Research Program awarded Uniformed Services University (USU) and Columbia University's Center for Complicated Grief a \$3 million, four-year grant to develop and test a mobile and web application to help military families cope with the loss of a servicemember.

The study, "Stepping Forward in Grief," is a follow-up to the National Military Family Bereavement Study (NMFBS), the first large scientific study on the impact of U.S. military deaths after 9/11 on surviving families. Results of the NMFBS indicated that family members experience grief differently than civilians.

"Equipping military families with resources that address the unique circumstance of their loss is an important part of honoring their service and sacrifice," said retired Army Col. (Dr.) Stephen J. Cozza, co-principal investigator on the study and professor of psychiatry at USU.

Cozza and fellow co-principal investigator M. Katherine Shearer, M.D., professor of psychiatry at the Columbia University School of Social Work, spent the first two years of the study developing two digital applications — GriefSteps and WellnessSteps — which can be accessed through mobile devices and computers. GriefSteps offers users information and activities based on the Complicated Grief Therapy Model, designed to reduce grief symptoms and risk for long-term problems. WellnessSteps provides users activities and information related to stress management and health maintenance.

Now that the apps have been launched, researchers are now recruiting subjects to participate in testing the applications. More than 200 participants have enrolled in the study so far, said Cozza. Eligible participants include spouses, ex-spouses, adult partners, children, siblings, or parents (biological, step, or foster) of servicemembers who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. More information can be found online at [steppingforwardstudy.org](http://steppingforwardstudy.org).

Let's hope the study will find a way for those stuck in despair to break through and find peace.

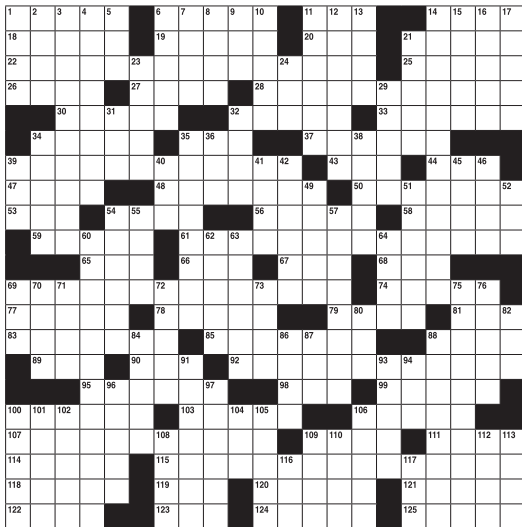
Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoes@comcast.net](mailto:meatandpotatoes@comcast.net)

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### GOING HEAD TO HEAD BY TOM MCCOY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Group of trees
- 6 Potential queens
- 11 Word that looks like its meaning when written in lowercase
- 14 Harmless weapons maker
- 18 Strong suit?
- 19 "Continue"
- 20 "Foucault's Pendulum" author, 1988
- 21 Like the Gregorian calendar
- 22 Showdown in Greek mythology
- 25 A couple of times
- 26 Word of confirmation on a messaging app
- 27 Couple
- 28 Showdown in classic video games
- 30 Quickened paces
- 32 Wasn't struck down
- 33 Realm
- 34 Tours can be seen on it
- 35 Triumph
- 37 Not in any way
- 39 Showdown in American history
- 43 Hot \_\_\_\_
- 44 One of four in a grand slam
- 47 Univ., e.g.
- 48 Bent over backward, in a way
- 50 Bit of PR.
- 53 Like baseball's Durham Bulls
- 54 Speaker of Welsh or Breton
- 56 Actor Elba
- 58 One of the o's in "ofo"
- 59 Rank above maj.
- 61 Showdown in cinema
- 65 Mork's planet
- 66 Brightly colored blazer
- 67 Obie-winning playwright Will
- 68 "What is it?"
- 69 Showdown in the funnies
- 74 Not use cursive
- 77 University in Des Moines
- 78 Greenish-brown hue
- 79 Neighbor of China
- 81 What's used to row, row, row your boat
- 83 Leave fulfilled
- 85 Less than perfect
- 88 Geometric prefix
- 89 Italian "il" or French "le"
- 90 Prattle
- 92 Showdown in the Bible
- 95 Protein shell of a virus
- 98 Like saumon blanc
- 99 Traditional Christmas decoration
- 100 Jump to conclusions
- 103 Some petting-zoo animals
- 106 Word with wonder or word
- 107 Showdown in comic books
- 109 Lead-in to boy or girl
- 111 Simple plan
- 114 Ostentation
- 115 Showdown in literature
- 118 Businesswoman
- Lauder
- 119 Apt name for a Braille instructor
- 120 TD Garden athlete
- 121 Knock over
- 122 Cordwain Lion portrayer
- 123 \_\_\_\_ bit
- 124 Ovejoy
- 125 Bone: Prefix
- DOWN**
- 1 What "Talk to the hand" is an example of
- 2 Unswerving
- 3 "I couldn't agree more!"
- 4 They're found under a bridge
- 5 Beats by \_\_\_\_ (headphones brand)
- 6 Short strokes
- 7 "Alas!"
- 8 Sudden impulse
- 9 Sister
- 10 "Try me"
- 11 Be relevant to
- 12 Country named for its latitude
- 13 College student's assignment
- 14 Words after an interruption
- 15 Stefani who is the youngest woman ever elected to Congress
- 16 Fast one
- 17 "\_\_\_\_ Jacques"
- 21 Conductors' announcements
- 23 "\_\_\_\_ where it hurts!"
- 24 Uncle, in Argentina
- 29 Under half of 45?
- 31 Brother of Dori and Nori in "The Hobbit"
- 32 Surprising lack of Oscar recognition
- 34 Suitable for a dieter, informally
- 35 Body of water connected by canal to the Baltic
- 36 Watson's company
- 38 Defeat
- 39 Govt. org. based in Ft. Meade, Md.
- 40 Word before right or rise
- 41 Move turbulently
- 42 Increasingly ripe, say
- 45 Wedding need ... or booking
- 46 Stereotypical therapist's response
- 49 Pipe cleaner
- 51 Enthusiasts
- 52 Go wrong
- 54 Part of the eye
- 55 Wapitis
- 57 British Bulldog : Churchill : \_\_\_\_ : Thatcher
- 60 Undistinguished, as many a subdivision house
- 62 Rapidly spreading vine
- 63 Get straight
- 64 Prefix with allergenic
- 69 Football units: Abbr.
- 70 Idiot, in Britspeak
- 71 Vow
- 72 Relatives of emus
- 73 Et \_\_\_\_
- 75 Numbers to avoid
- 76 Ragged
- 80 North African land: Abbr.
- 82 Cry of school spirit
- 84 Laid-back
- 86 Data-storage items on the decline
- 87 Organ in the leg of a katydid, bizarrely
- 88 Frontier lights
- 91 Unit of explosive power
- 93 "That sounds awful!"
- 94 Mauna \_\_\_\_
- 96 Wow
- 97 Territory name until 1889
- 100 Brat's opposite
- 101 Popular dip
- 102 Skilled laborer
- 104 Tex-\_\_\_\_
- 105 Bit of corruption
- 106 Author of the "Fear Street" series for young readers
- 108 Some saber wielders
- 109 Blush-green
- 110 Ninny
- 112 TV show set in William McKinley High School
- 113 Prefix with status
- 116 I's used to cite a site
- 117 Bonnie and Clyde, e.g.

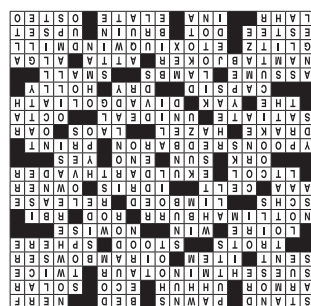


## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com. Online: gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



## STARS & STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

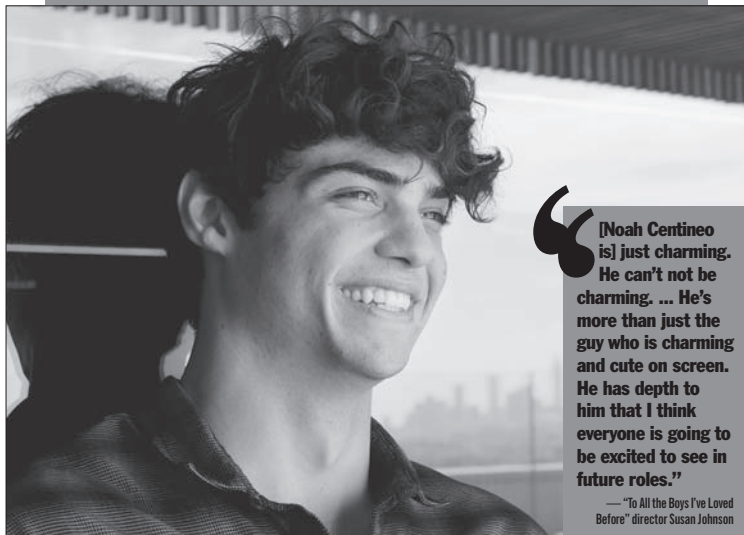
Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

ORDER NOW at [www.stripesstore.com](http://www.stripesstore.com)



Over 100 pages of stunning images and stories from the front lines

## FACES



Noah Centineo stars in the Netflix film "To All the Boys I've Loved Before."

[Noah Centineo is] just charming. He can't not be charming. ... He's more than just the guy who is charming and cute on screen. He has depth to him that I think everyone is going to be excited to see in future roles."

—"To All the Boys I've Loved Before" director Susan Johnson

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

## With 2 Netflix rom-coms, Noah Centineo is having a moment

BY LINDSEY BRAH  
Associated Press

If you have a Netflix account, chances are you recognize actor Noah Centineo. Although, like the best teen heartthrobs of generations past, you'd be forgiven if you only know him by his character's name: Peter Kavinsky, the high school lacrosse-playing romantic from "To All the Boys I've Loved Before." And yes, like Jake Ryan ("Sixteen Candles") and Jordan Catalano ("My So-Called Life") before him, both names are required.

Since "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" hit the 125-million subscriber streaming service Aug. 17, Peter Kavinsky has become a mini phenomenon, inspiring memes, tweets and think pieces from every corner of the internet about why Peter Kavinsky and his woke, pocket-twirling ways is the boyfriend we need right now. Centineo, 22, got more than 1 million new Instagram followers in a day. Two weeks later it was up to 6 million. Now, it's sitting at more than 8.2 million. As of Friday, he graces the small screen again as Netflix drops another high school rom-com, "Sierra Burgess is a Loser," into the homes of newly minted Centineo fans. (An internet campaign has already started to give his lovable character Jamey a last name.)

"Luckily, Twitter exists on a two-dimensional plane," laughed Centineo on a recent afternoon at Netflix's headquarters in Los Angeles. "It's not like I have 6 million-plus people walking around with me every day. That would be insane."

The "instant" stardom has been a long time coming for Centineo, a Flor-

ida native who decided he wanted to act at age 8. At 15, after appearing on the Disney Channel's "Austin & Ally," he convinced his family to move out to Los Angeles. When he arrived, he was always working and auditioning, but it was, as he describes it, "a slow climb."

In fact, right before he was cast on the Freeform show "The Fosters" at age 18, he had a crisis of confidence wondering if he should even be an actor. He wasn't able to book jobs or go out on auditions for six months because of a Disney pilot that never ended up going to series, and he felt that he'd lost his sense of purpose.

"It got dark," Centineo said. "I'm like, what am I doing with my life? Who cares if I'm an actor? Who cares if I'm successful? And as soon as I realized 'yeah, this isn't for me ... my life, my career, everything I do should be for others; there should be a deeper purpose outside of wanting to get money and be famous and live my own passion,' that's when 'The Fosters' hit — and I don't believe in coincidence."

And then came the one-two punch of "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" and "Sierra Burgess is a Loser," both via the same casting director, "Sierra Burgess" shot first, in early 2017. The film stars Shannon Purser (aka Barb from "Stranger Things") as a girl who finds herself in a texting relationship with Centineo's Jamey, a football player with a nerdy side who believes he's talking to a different girl (a cheerleader).

"What I love about Jamey is how he's goofy and he's a jock and he's like 'Yo, we are allowed to be both sides of the spectrum in one human being,'" Centineo said. "I like Peter K because the boy is an egomaniac. He's definitely

not as smart as Jamey, but he's sensitive, and a bit more extreme but still really loving and protective."

Centineo almost sabotaged his "To All the Boys" audition by arriving late to the chemistry read with Lana Condor. He was given the wrong address, and was mortified about it. As soon as he left, he had a dozen Sprinkles cupcakes sent over to the folks in the room, including director Susan Johnson.

"He's just charming. He can't not be charming," said Johnson. "I pulled him aside at the end of the shoot and said, 'You can go wherever you want to go and do any role you want to do. You have that much of a gift, and I hope you'll be super choosy.' He's more than just the guy who is charming and cute on screen. He has depth to him that I think everyone is going to be excited to see in future roles."

And, to be fair, Centineo thought he was doing two indies. Neither was a Netflix movie when he signed up, and both were acquired by the service as part of a "summer of love" push and set for release within three weeks of one another. Needless to say, he's taking this moment in stride.

"I'd like to think that my big break has yet to come," he said. "I like to think everything has been slowly progressing toward the ultimate picture. Of what, I don't know, but we're still painting."

And he has lofty artistic ambitions in movies and beyond — art, philanthropy, music — and would like to work with directors like Gaspar Noe, Terrence Malick, Wes Anderson, the Coens and the Nolans. "I'll play any character," he said. "Serial killer. Heroin addict. Nice boy. Jock. Bully. Nerd."

### Fate of Spacey's 'House of Cards' character unveiled in new teaser

Frank Underwood has met his demise.

The latest teaser for Season 6 of "House of Cards" reveals the character played by Kevin Spacey is dead on the show. The short video promo shows Underwood's wife Claire (played by Robin Wright) standing at his tombstone, which states he died in 2017.

"When they bury me, it won't be in my backyard," Claire says. "And when they pay their respects, they'll have to wait in line."

The fate of the character had not previously been revealed in the aftermath of Spacey being fired by Netflix following accusations of sexual misconduct against the actor.

The new "House of Cards" teaser also revealed that the final season premieres on Nov. 2.

### Actor teams with company to launch diversity and inclusion policy

WarnerMedia, the parent company of Hollywood studio Warner Bros., announced Wednesday a companywide policy aimed at increasing diversity and inclusion in front of and behind the camera. The initiative, established in partnership with actor Michael B. Jordan, is to apply to all productions going forward, beginning with Jordan's "Just Mercy."

"The WarnerMedia family has introduced an approach that accomplishes our shared objectives, and I applaud them for taking this enormous step forward," Jordan said in a statement. "I'm proud that our film, 'Just Mercy,' will be the first to formally represent the future we have been working toward, together. This is a legacy-bearing moment."

WarnerMedia's policy, which will also apply to HBO and Turner, focuses on having women, people of color, members of LGBTQ communities, folks with disabilities and other underrepresented groups in greater numbers in front of and behind the camera.

### Other news

■ **James Patterson** is on Round IV of his donations to classroom libraries. The novelist told The Associated Press on Thursday that he was acting on his pledge to give \$2 million in 2018, the fourth year of his "Patterson Pledge" campaign.

■ **Amber Tamblyn**, the actress, feminist and #MeToo activist, is working on a book of essays. Archetype announced Wednesday that it will publish Tamblyn's "Era of Ignition" in March. Tamblyn will combine stories about her life with her political and cultural views in what Archetype is calling an "enlightening and inspiring call to arms."

■ **Actress Cicely Tyson**, composer Lalo Schiffrin and publicist Martin Levy will be getting honorary Oscar statuettes this fall at the film academy's **Governors Awards**, while producers Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall will receive the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award.

■ **Singer and rapper Ty Dolla Sign** has been arrested on drug charges in Atlanta. According to Fulton County jail records, Griffin is charged with possessing cocaine and less than 1 ounce of marijuana, as well as obstruction.

■ **Gwyneth Paltrow's** lifestyle company goop has agreed to pay \$145,000 in civil penalties over products including organic tampons that are meant to be inserted into the vagina to improve health. Prosecutors in eight California counties jointly announced the settlement Tuesday after a task-force investigation found that some of goop's health claims were unfounded. In addition to the penalty, the company will provide refunds to customers who ask.

■ **Actor Christopher Kennedy Lawford**, who was born into political and Hollywood royalty, sank into substance abuse and addiction and rose to become a well-known advocate for sobriety and recovery, has died. Lawford died of a heart attack Tuesday in Vancouver, Canada, his cousin, former U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, told The Associated Press. He was 63. Lawford worked as an actor, with moderate success. He had a sharp turn in 2003 in "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," and had recurring roles on the soaps "All My Children" and "General Hospital."

■ **The Cranberries** singer **Dolores O'Riordan** accidentally drowned in a bathtub after drinking, a coroner's inquest concluded Thursday. Five miniature alcohol bottles and a bottle of champagne were found in the room, and toxicology tests revealed a blood alcohol level four times the legal limit for driving. "Therapeutic" amounts of prescription medication were also found, the inquest heard.

From wire reports



## STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Klrnek, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stripes.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erk Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erk@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380

## Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com  
+1(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

Mideast  
Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

## Europe

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

## Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171  
or by phone at 202.761.0900

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: +1(202)761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;  
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC  
20045-1301

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

## OMBUSMAN

Tobias Naegele

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information from government attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and queries from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at [naegele.tobias@stripes.com](mailto:naegele.tobias@stripes.com), or by phone at 202.761.0900.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published twice daily (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2018

[stripes.com](http://stripes.com)

## OPINION

## The confluence of online, Oval Office conflict

By CHUCK RAASCH  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**T**he co-founder of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, on Wednesday had this assessment: "Abuse, harassment, troll armies, propaganda through bots and human coordination, misinformation campaigns and divisive filter bubbles. That's not a healthy public square."

Dorsey was talking about Twitter before the Senate Intelligence Committee. But he could have been describing all of the public square this week. The divisions and distrust of 2018 roiled through new media, sparked by the world's top tweeter, a president who won in 2016 while harnessing the power of Twitter, and whose very stability has been newly called into question by the denizen of old media, Bob Woodward.

The explosive claims in Woodward's new book, "Fear: Trump in the White House," were buttressed Wednesday in an anonymous op-ed in The New York Times, which the paper said was penned by a senior Trump adviser, that described the president as amoral, and "not moored to any discernible first principles that guide his decision making."

Simultaneously, the Supreme Court hearings of Brett Kavanaugh have been frequently buffeted by loud protests, with women dressed in handmade lines. Senate office byways leading to the hearing room. The committee members can't even agree on how to describe the protests.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., a primary Kavanaugh critic, called the protests the "noise of democracy." Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, labeled them "no rub rule."

In Wednesday's Intelligence Committee hearing, Dorsey and Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg both admitted they and their companies were caught unprepared and have not done enough to

negate and expose the relentless and sophisticated disinformation wars that are wracking American politics.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., a member of the Intelligence Committee, decried the "attempts to manipulate and change our way of life, and America as we know it."

That may be one rare point of agreement. The stakes are that high.

In the midst of this Supreme Court and social media chaos dropped Woodward's book and its explosive excerpts portraying President Donald Trump as an unheeded, petulant and impulsive chief executive, surrounded by aides whose primary activities often are anticipating and heading off Trump-inspired calamities.

The pushback was fierce. Some quoted in the book, from some of the highest positions of Trump administration, denied saying what Woodward reports them saying. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, who was quoted in the book comparing Trump to a fifth-grader who risked World War III, responded with a statement saying that the "confounding words about the president attributed to me, Woodward's book were never uttered by me or in my presence."

But in Woodward, Trump faces no everyday media target. The president himself vouched for Woodward's fair treatment of him in the past in a tape released by Woodward's employer, The Washington Post. "Woodward, whose reporting helped bring down President Richard Nixon, is thorough and meticulous. If it's in the book, odds are it is on an audio recording in his possession from someone who agreed to talk without being directly named."

Ari Fleisher, press secretary to former President George W. Bush, tweeted: "I've been on the receiving end of a Bob Woodward book. There were quotes in it I didn't like. But never once — never — did I think Woodward made it up."

This week, more than most of the Trump

era, foundations are shaking.

Kavanaugh is a conservative judge who could have been nominated to the high court by any recent Republican president. Barring a surprise, he is likely to be confirmed by a narrow margin.

But the questions that Democrats are raising go to the very core of his veracity and truthfulness, and his addition to the court is likely to leave a bitter aftertaste that could influence the Nov. 6 congressional elections and stretch into the 2020 presidential campaign.

Meanwhile, the foundations of social media are shifting, too. Some members of the Senate Intelligence Committee talked of imposing regulations, like requiring social media sites to alert users if they've been victims of disinformation or contacted by nonhuman "bots."

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., asked Dorsey to describe "the biggest area where you are trying to rethink how you thought this was going to work out (vs.) the way it has turned out to be." Dorsey responded that Twitter is re-examining the very concept of "followers" and other metrics to judge a poster's legitimacy and authentic contribution.

In other words, the very things that were supposed to attract people to Twitter — immediacy, access, spirited discussion — also have encouraged and expanded the denizens of outrage, gossip and fake.

"When we created this service 12 years ago we had this concept of followers," Dorsey told Blunt. "And just that decision alone has incentivized people to want to grow that number."

And that question is now asking (is), is that not exactly the right incentive? Is the number of followers you have really proxy for how much you contribute to Twitter and to this digital public square? And we don't believe it is."

Chuck Raasch is a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

## Fake news working hard to protect democracy

By MARK ZUCKERBERG  
Special To The Washington Post

**W**hen you build services that connect billions of people across countries and cultures, you're going to see all of the good that humanity can do, and you're also going to see people try to abuse those services in every way possible. Our responsibility at Facebook is to amplify the good and mitigate the bad.

This is especially true when it comes to elections. Free and fair elections are the heart of every democracy. During the 2016 election, we were actively looking for traditional cyberattacks, and we found them. What we didn't find until later were foreign actors using the abuse, including misinformation, to interfere with America's democratic process. Since then, we've focused on improving our defenses and making it much harder for anyone to interfere in elections.

Key to our efforts has been finding and removing fake accounts — the source of much of the abuse, including misinformation. Bad actors can use computers to generate these in bulk. But with advances in artificial intelligence, we now block millions of fake accounts every day as they are being created so they can't be used to spread spam, false news or inauthentic ads.

Increased transparency in our advertising systems is another area where we have also made progress. You can now see all the ads an advertiser is running — even if they aren't targeted to you. Anyone who wants to run political or issue ads in the United States on Facebook must verify their identity. All political and issue ads must also

make clear who paid for them, in the same way as TV or newspaper advertisements. But we've gone even further by putting all these ads in a public archive, which anyone can search to see how much was spent on each individual ad and the audience it reached. This greater transparency will increase responsibility and accountability for advertisers.

As we've seen from previous elections, misinformation is a real challenge. A big part of the solution is getting rid of fake accounts. But it's also about attacking the spammers' economic incentives to create false news in the first place. And where posts are flagged as potentially false, we pass them to independent fact-checkers — such as The Associated Press and The Weekly Standard — to review, and we de-rate posts rated as false. That means they lose 80 percent of future traffic.

We're not working alone. After 2016, it became clear that everyone — governments, tech companies and independent experts — needs to do a better job of sharing the signals and information they have to prevent this kind of abuse. The bad actors don't restrict themselves to one service, and we shouldn't approach the problem in silos, either. That's why we're working more closely with other technology companies on the cybersecurity threats we all face and we're working with law enforcement to take down accounts in Russia.

One of the biggest changes we've made over the past year is not to wait for reports of suspicious activity. Instead, we look proactively for potentially harmful election-related content, such as pages registered to a foreign entity or post divisive content to sow mistrust and drive people apart. When

we find them, our security team manually reviews the accounts to see whether they violate our policies. If they do, we quickly remove them. For example, we recently took down a network of accounts in Brazil that was hiding its identity and spreading misinformation ahead of the country's presidential elections next month.

For the U.S. midterm elections we're also using a new tool we tested in Alabama's U.S. Senate special election last year to identify political interference more quickly. This enabled us to find and remove foreign political spammers who'd previously flown under the radar. And last month, we took down hundreds of pages, groups and accounts for creating networks that were deliberately misleading people about their identities and intentions. Some originated in Iran and others in Russia.

I'm often asked how confident I feel about the midterms. We've made a lot of progress, as our work during the French, German, Mexican and Italian elections has shown. In each case, we identified and removed fake accounts and bad content leading up to the elections, and in Germany we worked directly with the government to share information about potential threats. The investments we continue to make in people and technology will help us improve even further. But companies such as Facebook face sophisticated, well-funded adversaries who are getting smarter over time. It's an arms race, and it will take the combined forces of the U.S. private and public sectors to protect America's democracy from outside interference.

Mark Zuckerberg is chief executive officer of Facebook.

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

New campaign for Kaepernick  
The Baltimore Sun

If President Donald Trump hadn't bragged at a campaign rally in Alabama that if he were an NFL owner, he would fire any "son of a bitch" who knelt during the national anthem, would Colin Kaepernick be a face of Nike's Just Do It campaign? Would a black-and-white image of Kaepernick's face with the words, "Believe in something even if it means sacrificing everything" be ricocheting around the internet today if an NFL team, any NFL team, would have so much as signed him as a backup quarterback? Would players still be following his example to kneel or even raise their fists during the national anthem if his efforts to bring attention to racial injustice had been taken at face value and not as an affront to the flag, military and country?

All those posting images of burned or defaced Nikes since word spread of Kaepernick's new Nike campaign over the weekend should consider this: It is they who transformed him from a quarterback whose career had been middling since taking his team to (and losing in) the Super Bowl into an icon, someone whose cultural power far transcends sport.

Nike isn't so much thrusting him back into the spotlight as it is recognizing that he's already there — and capable of selling shoes. Kaepernick's jersey leaked to the top of sales lists after the anthem protests started in 2016, and stayed in the top 50 last year despite the fact that he wasn't on an NFL roster. Here's betting that the sports equipment giant did some marketing research before signing what is reportedly a multiyear, multimillion-dollar deal with an athlete who is suing his former league and may never play again.

Why does Kaepernick still resonate? Part of it is certainly the fact that he has, as the ad suggests, genuinely sacrificed a great deal in the name of principle. That's always an intriguing narrative. But there's also the simple fact that Kaepernick's message about protesting racial injustice has only become more relevant since its origins at the height of the Black Lives Matter movement. Then, the nation's first black president was (however imperfectly) seeking to achieve the kind of racial reconciliation that many assumed already existed with his election. Now, we have a president who posits moral equivalence between white supremacists and those who protest them, emboldening those who would exacerbate and exploit racial division.

News about the Kaepernick ad came on the heels of a Baltimore *Post-Examiner* Democrat reported on robocalls linked to a white supremacist group in which a man speaking in a racist exaggeration of a minstrel performer's dialect pretends to be the Democratic nominee for Florida governor, Andrew Gillum, who is black. The recording, which makes no mention of Kaepernick, makes reference to his Republican opponent's statement a few days before that Florida voters shouldn't "monkey this up" by voting for Gillum.

Colin Kaepernick still matters because his message still does. NFL owners who make money off of Kaepernick's image off a team (whether through outright collusion, as his lawsuit alleges, or a more informal groupthink), and they couldn't stop the protests that stemmed from his activism through ham-fisted attempts to compromise with the players. Trump raised the stakes too high for that. Nike, who has had Kaepernick under contract since 2011, is



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley celebrates victory over Rep. Michael Capuano in Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District Democratic primary Tuesday in Boston.

doing nothing more than taking advantage of the opportunity the president and his allies so cynically created.

Safety first at football practice  
USA Today

You can add the name Jordan McNair to the list of college, high school and middle school players who might have needlessly died for the love of football.

A simple, well-known procedure — immersing McNair, 19, in a tub of ice water — when he collapsed at an off-season University of Maryland workout in May could well have saved his life. But it didn't happen. This failure drew national attention to how unprepared many football programs are to keep their players safe.

The focus on concussions can obscure the deaths that continue to occur each year. Last year, 13 high school and college players died from incidents that include heat stroke, head injuries and sudden cardiac arrest. Just two weeks ago in Crowley, Texas, Kyrell McBride-Johnson, 13, collapsed at a middle school practice and died that night. His mother told The Dallas Morning News that he was signaling for water before collapsing.

The simple truth is that player safety at too many schools and colleges comes in a poor second to winning. Even as the climate warms, colleges, high schools and middle schools are starting football season earlier than they used to.

Five decades ago, Notre Dame and Michigan opened their seasons on the third Saturday of September and Ohio State on the fourth Saturday. This year, spurred by longer seasons and lucrative TV schedules, all three teams played their first game Sept. 1, necessitating practices in midsummer heat. High schools and middle schools mimic the college schedules.

Starting the season later could by itself reduce the number of heat stroke deaths. But even with the current schedule, schools know how to prevent potentially fatal incidents and to rescue students if they occur. In 2013, more than a dozen leading sports medicine groups and the National Federation of State High School Associations endorsed a list of best practices to prevent injuries and save lives.

Grading states against that list and other smart practices, the University of Connecticut's Korey Stringer Institute found that 28 states have failed to put in place half the measures to keep students safe.

That's inexcusable. If states have the wherewithal to run high school football programs, they have the wherewithal to do more to ensure that students don't die.

Many of the policies are based on common sense and carry minimal costs. Preventing heat stroke, for example, requires players in hot weather to acclimate: no

more than one practice a day, and no practice lasting more than three hours. But the majority of states don't require this, according to Douglas Casa, the Stringer Institute's CEO. Nor do all states require cold-water immersion tubs be on hand; a tub costs about \$150, can be purchased at a hardware store, and is known to save lives. Many don't have an emergency plan posted on the field and known to all school staff.

And just a handful require an athletic trainer on site for all "collision/contact" practices. Yes, this costs money, but if a school can afford to maintain a field and pay for coaches, insurance, uniforms and travel, the cost of a staff member with medical training is not too much to ask.

More than 110 years ago, after at least 18 college players died during a single season, President Theodore Roosevelt saved the game by pressing for commonsense safety measures.

Today, everyone knows what the solutions are. It's past time for state athletic officials and lawmakers to act.

All Shock up by Pressley's win  
The Boston Globe

Capping off an improbable rise from the Boston City Council to the threshold of Congress, Ayanna Pressley made history Tuesday night by defeating Rep. Michael Capuano in a closely fought Democratic primary. The resounding victory clears the way for Pressley, whose chances were discounted when she decided to take on a 20-year incumbent, to become the first black woman ever to represent Massachusetts in Congress.

It's a milestone to behold, especially given the obstacles she overcame. Pressley, 44, went into the race with fewer resources and without the blessing of the Democratic establishment. Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, former Gov. Deval Patrick, and even some of her council colleagues quickly closed ranks behind Capuano. The two had few concrete policy disagreements, and supporters of Capuano pointed to his long voting record as a reliable supporter of progressive causes.

But Pressley convinced voters to expect more. She made the case that the 7th Congressional District — which the Legislature drew specifically as a majority-minority district — needed a representative with a more intimate understanding of its needs. Capuano, a former Somerville mayor, brought home billions from Washington. Pressley convinced voters that it was just as important what a representative brought to Washington.

And her victory carries an unmistakable message, amplified by Tuesday's other electoral upsets farther down the ticket: Massachusetts politics is changing. Candidates aren't willing to wait their turn anymore. The power of incumbency

is weakening.

Pressley's insurgent campaign should be a wake-up call to the old guard. Her victory is a political earthquake, and there will be aftershocks. The new reality — that officeholders should expect challengers — should encourage politicians to stay on their toes and take nothing for granted. At the same time, the success of challengers like Pressley should entice anyone who'd ever contemplated a primary challenge in Massachusetts.

Run. It's a new world, and you don't have to wait. Just ask Ayanna Pressley.

Elections don't drive charges  
The New York Times

By now, few might lift an eyebrow at President Donald Trump's crusade to delegitimize his own Justice Department and, specifically, his attorney general, Jeff Sessions. It long ago became clear that Trump regards federal law enforcement — as he sees all of government — as a political tool to advance the interests of himself and of his party (assuming those interests align, of course; if not, the party is on its own).

But even by that debased standard, Trump's Twitter tantrum against Sessions on Monday set a new low, providing a kind of anti-civics lesson for the nation he's supposed to lead.

"Two long-running, Obama era, investigations of two very popular Republican Congressmen were brought to a well publicized charge, just during the last terms," he wrote. "Two easy wins now in doubt because there is not enough time. Good job Jeff."

With this latest outburst, the president has again laid bare his contempt for the rule of law. Trump does not seem inclined to care about the allegations of corruption against the two lawmakers in question. His concern is only that they are "very popular" members who would have scored "easy wins" in November, if only Sessions had kept his fat mouth shut until after the midterms — or better yet, buried the allegations in the past.

Chris Collins, Republican of New York, who was indicted last month on insider trading charges, is facing multiple counts of securities fraud, wire fraud and lying to federal agents. Investigators were aided in their efforts by the fact that the representative's alleged misbehavior was caught on video while he was attending the White House congressional picnic last summer.

Duncan Hunter, Republican of California, indicted just a couple of weeks after Collins, is accused of misappropriating \$250,000 in campaign funds for personal use. His wife, also named Hunter, was charged, incidentally, allegedly tipped into the political kitty to buy items ranging from running shoes to family vacations to plane tickets for their pet.

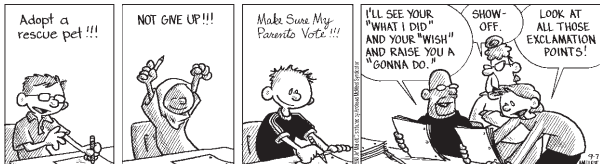
Both lawmakers have pleaded not guilty. Collins has suspended his campaign, while Hunter's name will remain on the ballot even as he awaits trial.

These indictments carry a personal resonance for the president. Collins was the first member of Congress to endorse Trump's candidacy. Hunter was the second. For a president for whom blind loyalty runs above all else, the possibility of losing two such devoted followers must be especially vexing.

The heart of the matter for Trump is, as always, what's in it for Trump. Keeping Congress under GOP control is key to the president's fortunes, both political and legal. As Trump sees it, Sessions has once again laid out a road to defeat through his torrid insistence upon upholding the law.

Trump's beef is not with Jeff Sessions or the Justice Department. He has a problem with the law — or at least with the idea that it should apply to him and those who do his bidding. Republicans, especially Republican lawmakers, are in a bind: to compromise in this perversion of justice.

Frazz



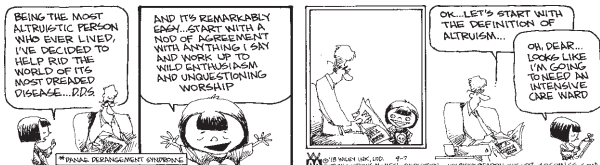
Dilbert



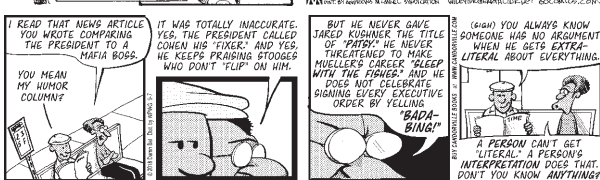
Pearls Before Swine



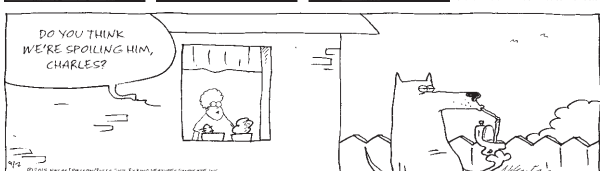
Non Sequitur



Candorville



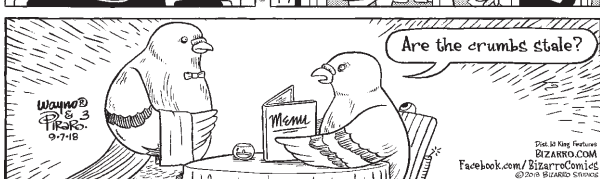
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				
15				16					17				
18							19	20					
			21				22			23	24	25	
26	27	28				29				30			
31						32				33			
34				35					36				
37				38				39					
			40					41			42	43	44
45	46	47				48	49						
50						51					52		
53						54					55		

### ACROSS

- Clothing protector
- Persian bigwig
- Handle
- 100%
- Prolonged sleep
- Asta's mistress
- Destructive waves
- Midmonth date
- Zimbabwe's capital
- Possesses
- Sun. talk
- 22 Rock concert souvenir
- Flip out
- Chatter
- Museum-funding org.
- Military no-show
- Satchel
- Twosome
- Under the weather
- Annoy
- Reddish dye
- Dangerous fly
- Airline to Sweden
- 40 "I — Rock"
- Locust
- Bygone jets
- Russian empresses
- "Star Trek" captain
- Contain

### DOWN

- Tub session
- "Casablanca" role
- Fuzzy image
- Fearful
- Ballpark winner
- Paris pal
- Pound sign, on Twitter
- Del. turnover
- Silent assent
- Tram load
- Some coll. degrees
- Twangy
- Cleo's slayer
- up-roar
- Check
- O'Hara estate
- Pace
- They give a hoot
- Burrowing critter
- Talk and talk
- Get some air
- Joe of "GoodFellas"
- Belief
- Coiffure
- To-do list items
- Overcharge for tickets
- Fresh
- Facts and figures
- Wan
- Enjoy Vail
- Lancelot
- Prefix with athlete
- Boston team, for short

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	M	B		C	U	L	L		D	A	D
A	L	O	U		O	R	C	A		E	U	R
W	O	O	D		W	I	N	D	S		A	T
S	E	N	D		O	N				E	N	D
					H	O		S	H	R	E	W
L	I	S	A		C	P	A		T	O	U	T
A	S	H			O	I	L		O	N	O	
P	E	E	P		I	K	E		A	D	D	S
					R	U	B	L	E	M	R	
T	A	W	N		Y				M	O	C	H
E	C	O			W	O	O		C	H	U	C
A	M	O			A	S	T		I	E	T	R
L	E	D			Y	E	T		I	S	T	E

9-7

### CRYPTOQUIP

OJLV D EYVR DQEQ HP QLL D

GDNNLUYVD UYRJD DODK.

KPT BPTNC QDK JL CLZDVCQ

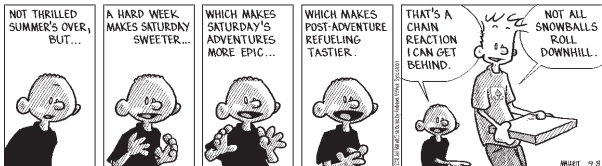
DV YZZLCYDHL CDVBLU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUGE CANADIAN METROPOLIS NAMED AFTER THE LONE RANGER'S FAITHFUL COMPANION: TONTO, ONTARIO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals D



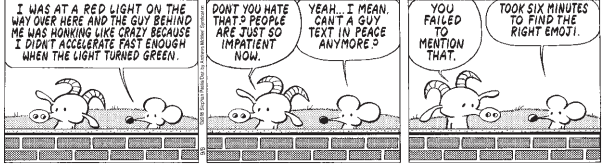
Frazz



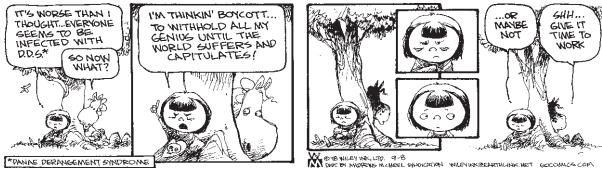
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



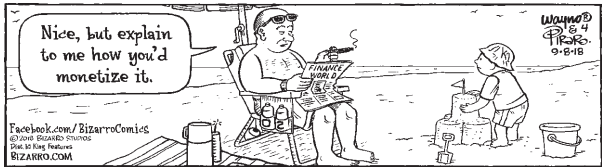
Carpe Diem



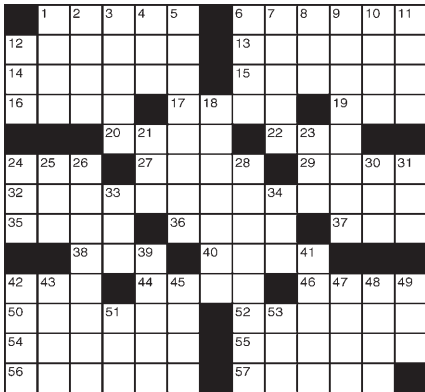
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 James Bond portrayer Daniel
- 2 Ice cream choice
- 3 Lack of vitality
- 4 Gerrymander
- 5 Sty
- 6 Not many
- 7 Star athletes, briefly
- 8 Moreover
- 9 Arias for one
- 10 Very long time
- 11 Greek X
- 12 Prima donna
- 13 Float gently
- 14 Superior motives
- 15 Jacob's twin
- 16 Coaster
- 17 Noah's boat
- 18 Yank's foe
- 19 Let fall
- 20 Mimic
- 21 "Star Wars" royal
- 22 Glimpse
- 23 Nonprofessional
- 24 Snacked (on)
- 25 Consecrate
- 26 with oil
- 27 Clusters
- 28 Wall plaster
- 29 Relaxes
- 30 Acknowledges
- 31 Charged bit
- 32 Glitch-causing gnomes
- 33 Shakespeare producer Joseph
- 34 Ouzo flavor
- 35 Be a couch potato
- 36 Mexican entree
- 37 Nothing, in Nantes
- 38 Grit
- 39 Monk's title
- 40 "The Four Seasons" composer
- 41 Poetic tribute
- 42 Possess
- 43 "Evita" narrator
- 44 That guy's
- 45 Challenger's words
- 46 Info on a toy package
- 47 Distant
- 48 "For shame!"
- 49 Expected
- 50 Tokyo, once
- 51 Mel who voiced Bugs Bunny
- 52 Mexican money
- 53 Regrettably
- 54 Gasp for air
- 55 Within (Pref.)
- 56 Actress
- 57 Elisabeth
- 58 Energizes, with "up"
- 59 QB's stats
- 60 Karaoke prop, for short
- 61 Mouths (Lat.)

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



### DOWN

- 1 Staff leader?
- 2 Demolish

9-8

### CRYPTOQUIP

HFUG WCWBGU GMFG AEOVK

DW HFPBIOV IEQ UGESIMEVY

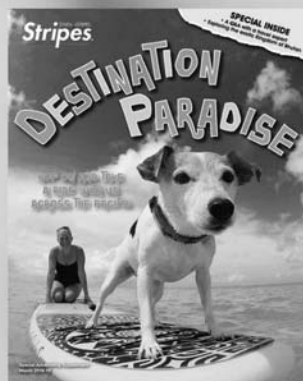
BFGPCWU GE QWSFVV:

DPGGWQ UAWKW YWYEQPWU.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A KING ASKS TO SEE A BALLERINA RIGHT AWAY, YOU COULD SAY HE DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE DANCER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals V

# You've never felt more like a local.



Available online at

**[stripes.com/special-publications](https://stripes.com/special-publications)**

Whether you are searching for the best Sunday brunch in Okinawa or a family friendly get away in Germany, one of our **FREE** publications will help you embrace your new home so you can live your new adventure to the fullest.


STARS AND STRIPES®

**FREE AD Guidelines:**

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

# STARS AND STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) to place your free ad. **Sell fast! Buy fast!**

When you see this  camera icon go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) to view the uploaded photo.

Advertising	EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	PACIFIC
Kristi Kimmel <a href="mailto:kimmel,kristi@stripes.com">kimmel,kristi@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	Kristi Kimmel <a href="mailto:kimmel,kristi@stripes.com">kimmel,kristi@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	Kristi Kimmel <a href="mailto:kimmel,kristi@stripes.com">kimmel,kristi@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314,583,9013	Ichiro Katayanagi <a href="mailto:CustomerHelp@stripes.com">CustomerHelp@stripes.com</a> +81(3) 6385,3267 DSN 315,229,3267
Van Rowell <a href="mailto:rowell,van@stripes.com">rowell,van@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631,3615,9111 DSN 314,583,9111	Robert Reismann <a href="mailto:reismann,robert@stripes.com">reismann,robert@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631,3615,9150 DSN 314,583,9150		Mari Matsumoto <a href="mailto:SSPCirculation@stripes.com">SSPCirculation@stripes.com</a> +81(3) 6385,3171 DSN 315,229,3171
<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>		<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>

## Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Autos for Sale Germany 142

### SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Auto • Quality Prewashed  
US SPEC Vehicles  
[www.a1seccautosales.com](http://www.a1seccautosales.com)  
Free Europe-wide delivery

Jobs Offered 630

Landstuhl American Dentistry is looking for a full-time Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). Competitive salary and vacation package! Must hold a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) license and X-ray Certification. Available to start a new position immediately. Please send your resume to: [manager@american-dentistry.de](mailto:manager@american-dentistry.de)

Travel 1000

"Full in Garmisch!"  
Hotel Forsthaus Oberau 8 km N of Garmisch-Partenkirchen  
30eur PP, DBL occp, free brkfst, dogs welcome. 08954-9120  
[www.forsthaus-oberau.de](http://www.forsthaus-oberau.de)

Free Classifieds!



Visit [Stripes.com](http://Stripes.com) for details.

STARS AND STRIPES

## Want a better picture?



You'll get one – just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.

In print • Online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) •  
Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad  
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

# STARS AND STRIPES Relocation Guide

To advertise in the next Relocation Guide, reach out to Michael Davidson at [davidson.michael@stripes.com](mailto:davidson.michael@stripes.com) or call 202-761-0910.

PCS-ing to Fort Hood Army Base?  
browse and find a home at  
[www.alltexashomes.com](http://www.alltexashomes.com)



LET YOUR REAL ESTATE EXPERTS GUIDE YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY TO HOMEOWNERSHIP



**Dagmar Rogers**  
RE/MAX First Choice  
Top Producer  
Cell: 254-258-0777  
Email: [dagmar@alltexashomes.com](mailto:dagmar@alltexashomes.com)



**Diane Cass**  
RE/MAX First Choice  
New Construction Specialist  
Cell: 254-366-7017  
Email: [dianecass@baylor.com](mailto:dianecass@baylor.com)



**Jimmy Alexander**  
Assistant Branch Manager  
NMLS#214000  
Tel: 254-454-0337  
Email: [jalexander@swc.com](mailto:jalexander@swc.com)

REALTORS MIRE SWC

**RELOCATING TO HAMPTON ROADS, VA?**  
Real Professional Property Management?  
Ready Services for Those Who Serve!



**ERIC W. GARDNER** CAPT (RET) USN  
REALTOR, GRI®, ABR®  
**MILITARY RELOCATION SPECIALIST**  
Cell: (757) 805-6235  
[EricGardner@remax.net](mailto:EricGardner@remax.net)  
[www.FlyArmyHomes.com](http://www.FlyArmyHomes.com)  
**RE/MAX Alliance**  
757-805-6235 • 1000 N. Bridge St. #200 • Norfolk, VA 23502

OVER \$30K IN VET REWARDS 2017/18

PCS-ing to LUKE AIR FORCE BASE?

Search for homes for sale at  
[www.LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com](http://www.LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com)



**G-II VARRATO II**  
Arizona State  
Director at VAREP  
Veterans Association of  
Real Estate Professionals



**Lori & G-II**  
Coldwell Banker  
[Lori@LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com](mailto:Lori@LukeAirForceBaseSpecialist.com)

**Client Endorsements**  
<http://tinyurl.com/ClientEndorsements4LoriNG2>



**Patricia Garcia**  
Realtor®, MRP CMBRE #02037806  
Email me at [sandiegomilitaryspecialist@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegomilitaryspecialist@gmail.com)  
or call 619.372.9335  
[www.glurealty.com](http://www.glurealty.com)



**BIG BLOCK**  
REAL ESTATE

This program is specifically offered to help those who serve our community and go above and beyond to make our community and lives better.

- FREE APPRAISAL
- FREE HOME WARRANTY
- CLOSING COST CREDITS
- COMPLIMENTARY HOUSE WARMING PARTY

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

**Relocating to the Greater Tampa Bay Area?**  
Congratulations on your move to Mac Dill AFB, FL. Let's open the doors to your next home together.

Closing Cost Reward Program • Local Area Expertise  
• Network of Trusted Partners • School Enrollment Package

Licensed Real Estate Consultant at Future Home Realty Inc  
Email: [stefanisell2wesleychapel@gmail.com](mailto:stefanisell2wesleychapel@gmail.com)  
Tel: 813.210.0168  
[www.futurehomerealty.com](http://www.futurehomerealty.com)  
[www.facebook.com/stefanisell2wesleychapel/](http://www.facebook.com/stefanisell2wesleychapel/)



## Sell Your Stuff!



Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS—sell everything with Stripes *free classifieds!*

STARS AND STRIPES



# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Attorneys

178

Transportation

944

**UPI2**  
RECHTSANWALT  
FACHANWALT | NOTARE

## U.S. & GERMAN ATTORNEYS

US & German Divorces • Support Issues  
Wills and Probate • Employment  
ERC • ADP • Personal Injury  
Contractor Issues • Tax

CALL 069-299-2069-0  
email: moiss@upi2legal.de

Attorneys

178

Transportation

944

**Court & Carpenter**  
MILITARY DEFENSE LAWYERS



**EUROPE'S PREMIER  
COURT-MARTIAL  
DEFENSE FIRM**

Over 45 years  
defending  
servicemembers

Sauerwiesen 2, Kaiserslautern-Siegbach,  
Germany 67661 • Call 0176 2005 2265  
[www.militarylawfirm.com](http://www.militarylawfirm.com)

Dental

902



## AMERICAN DOCTORS & STAFF

Creating Healthy Smiles

- Certified Orthodontics
- American Dental Hygienists
- Family Dentistry



Ramstein Dental Care  
06371 406 230  
Poststrasse 1, 66877 Ramstein  
Ramsteindental.com

Wiesbaden Dental Care  
06119 887 26 50  
Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden  
Wiesbadendental.com

TRICARE Preferred Provider



## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

### For Further Information Please Contact

Phone:  
Toll-free:  
E-Mail:  
WEB:

GERMANY  
+49-016134-2592730  
0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)  
[info@transglobal-logistics.de](mailto:info@transglobal-logistics.de)  
[www.transglobal-logistics.de](http://www.transglobal-logistics.de)

UNITED KINGDOM  
+44-(0)1638-515714  
[enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk)  
[www.carshipuk.co.uk](http://www.carshipuk.co.uk)

U.S.A.  
+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701  
+1-800-264-8167 (US only)  
[info@tgal.us](mailto:info@tgal.us)  
[www.tgal.us](http://www.tgal.us)

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

**Trans Global**  
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH



Transportation

944

Transportation

944



## Interglobal Shipping GmbH

Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada  
Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings  
Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!  
[info@interglobalshipping.de](mailto:info@interglobalshipping.de)  
[www.interglobalshipping.de](http://www.interglobalshipping.de)

Tel: (0421) 540-6550 Fax: (0421) 540-6565  
Toll free: 0800-000-6311

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: [info@worldwide-ship.de](mailto:info@worldwide-ship.de)  
Visit our Website: [www.worldwide-ship.de](http://www.worldwide-ship.de)

## Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events, TV,  
movies, music, video games,  
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

## Be the one who really knows what's going on!



Never miss a **Stars and Stripes**.

We report on issues that affect you the most,  
covering military news from *Capitol Hill to Europe,*  
*Pacific, the Middle East and the Pentagon.*

No one covers the bases the way we do.  
Wherever you need us, however you read us:  
**Stars and Stripes is always for you.**

STARS AND STRIPES

In print • Online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

## Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and in a Tablet Edition for iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES

Mobile • Online • Print

# STARS STRIPES®

## Unlimited Digital Access

### INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONLY  
**99¢**

#### When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



#### Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

### Subscribe Today!



**[stripes.com/subscribe](https://stripes.com/subscribe)**





## HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

## Division II opening season with meaningful games

All-Italy weekend is fitting start to unconventional regular-season slate

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

Italy is the center of the DODEA Europe football universe Saturday as Aviano, Naples and Vicenza host consequential Division II games on the season's opening weekend.

While Division I is involved in non-conference tune-ups and Division III remains a week away from debuting its newfound brand of six-man football, Division II is rushing headlong into full-fledged regular-season matchups with major possible playoff implications. The all-Italy opening week is a fitting start to an unconventional regular-season schedule reconfigured at the final hour.

Soon after camp opened in August, a shortage of available players forced Baumholder to play six-man ball in Division III rather than 11-man ball in Division II, thereby rendering DODEA Europe's original schedule obsolete and setting off a chain reaction of late-summer changes on the gridiron.

Baumholder's absence left Division II with just seven teams, prompting a reimagining of the season. Last year, 10 teams were divided into two regions; the members of those regions played largely amongst themselves and sent their top two finishers into a four-team playoff round. This year, each team will play its six divisional rivals once apiece and two teams will advance directly to the Nov. 3 championship game at Kaiserslautern. DODEA Europe athletic director Kathy Clemmons said the exact process for determining those two finalists is still under discussion.

Clemmons pointed out that the new Division II format "mirrors" that of Division I, in which all six teams play each other once. But the presence of a seventh team in Division II means there's no available week for a semifinal round.

Further, the logistics in Division II, where teams are scattered from the Benelux to southern Italy, are far more chal-



SCOTT WYLAN/Stars and Stripes

**The Naples Wildcats will practice on newly installed turf that will enable them to play at their home stadium for the first time in three years. The past two seasons the team has played home games at Carney Park, about a half-hour from the school.**

lenging than in Division I, where five of six teams are clustered in Germany and only games involving England-based Lakenheath require long-haul travel.

"Transportation is challenging as the schools are spread out all over Europe," Clemmons said. "The individuals who acquire our transportation are rock stars! They work miracles."

The schedule presents fresh challenges for the players and coaches navigating it. That's equally true for 2017 champion

Spangdahlem and runner-up Rota, both of whom have new head coaches this season.

Mike Laue, who led the Bitburg Barons to a half-decade dynasty before recapturing gold when the program shifted to Spangdahlem last season, stepped aside this summer and was replaced by athletic director and longtime assistant Chris Howard. The Sentinels open with a bye week as the division's other six teams kick off the season this weekend; they'll start their five-game slate Sept. 15 against visiting Aviano.

**'This year's schedule has to be what it is with seven D-II teams. Everyone gets to play everyone else.'**

Chris Howard  
Bitburg Barons coach

In Rota, Luke Spencer will make the leap from assistant to head coach while Ken Walter stays on as an assistant. The Spain-based Admirals, the 2016 European champion and 2017 runner-up, face a long road back to the title game; they won't play at home until the final two games of the regular season, including an Oct. 20 rematch with Spangdahlem.

"With four consecutive away games, we have to start sharp and stay sharp," Spencer said. "We cannot have a bad week."

That's true for all seven title hopefuls in a division that offers little room for error. The new system cut the number of postseason qualifiers in half while expanding the number of opponents for which each team must prepare.

"This year's schedule has to be what it is with seven D-II teams," Howard said. "Everyone gets to play everyone else."

This week's three matchups should represent a worth start to a compelling season of Division II football.

The Aviano Saints look to recapture their 2017 momentum against the visiting International School of Brussels Raiders. The once-struggling Saints stunned DODEA Europe last fall with an undefeated regular season and strong playoff showing in a 26-21 semifinal loss to Rota.

At Naples, the host Wildcats and SHAPE Spartans are similarly of a mind to perpetuate strong 2017 showings. Naples reached the semifinals, while SHAPE ended its season with a 23-21 upset of Rota.

The Admirals, meanwhile, start their extended road trip against the Vicenza Cougars, the first of three trips they'll make to Italy this season.

broome.gregory@stripes.com;  
Twitter: @broomestripes

## Mingazzini, Kordonowy clear favorites

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

Two clear singles championship favorites are among the many DODEA Europe tennis players opening the 2018 regular season this weekend: one seasoned champion looking to extend a title reign, the other poised to begin one.

Maymount standout Mathias Mingazzini is back to pursue a third consecutive boys singles championship, a goal he's exceedingly likely to achieve given his recent dominance of the DODEA Europe tennis ranks. He captured his first title as a sophomore in 2016, beating Florence's Francesco Lomondo 6-1, 6-4. Last year, Mingazzini handled SHAPE's Noah Banken 6-2, 6-1 to repeat.

Among the candidates to contend with Mingazzini this year are Kaiserslautern senior and returning semifinalist Mark Butler, who Raiders coach Elizabeth Quinn called "a top competitor" and an "outstanding leader," and Stuttgart's Amar Tahirovic, a promising freshman.

While the boys' crown appears firmly in Mingazzini's grasp, the girls' singles title is vacant. Last year's champion, Catherine Gulihur of Vicenza, has moved on, signing this summer to continue her career at Oklahoma State University.

That leaves the upstart Gulihur beat last year as her opponent. Now a sophomore, Wiesbaden's Charlotte Kordonowy is the new player to beat after losing 6-2, 6-0, to the Division I-bound Gulihur last fall.

Wiesbaden's aspirations go beyond Kordonowy's title bid. Another young phenom, freshman Hope Goodwin, brings substantial experience to the program and figures to make an immediate impact for the Warriors. She'll step into a No. 1 doubles slot alongside returning standout Shelby Albers as Wiesbaden looks to upgrade last year's runner-up finishes in singles and doubles to a girls championship sweep.

"The girls were strong last year and they will be at least as strong this year," Warriors coach Tom Rooney said.

Beyond the short list of championship contenders lies a deep roster of DODEA Europe athletes steadily improving at a sport that can reward participants well past the conclusion of their competitive high school careers.

"Kids are loving the game here," said Joel McDonald, coach of the Division III Hohenfels Tigers. "The learning curve is steep, but they are learning a great lifetime sport."

The DODEA Europe regular season opens Saturday and concludes Oct. 25-27 with the annual European tennis championship tournaments at Wiesbaden.

broome.gregory@stripes.com

Twitter: @broomestripes



Kordonowy



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**Maymount's Mathias Mingazzini returns a shot from SHAPE's Noah Banken on his way to defending his title with a 6-2, 6-1 win at the DODEA-Europe tennis championships in Wiesbaden, Germany, last fall. Mingazzini is a strong favorite to repeat for a third straight year.**

# HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC



MARY OUSUNA/Special to Stars and Stripes

Kadena's Eric McCarter ran for 1,137 yards and 16 touchdowns on 93 carries last season, helping the Panthers to a 6-1 record and the Far East title.

# Division line forms behind Kadena, Kinnick

BY DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Experienced skill-position players, led by four-year starting quarterbacks, propelled Kadena and Kinnick to one of the closest Division I football title clashes in Far East playoff history last fall.

Those teams find themselves at odds over regarding skill callers. But the Panthers and Red Devils each have one major advantage over their other three D-I opponents — strong offensive lines, most of them returners.

Kinnick has perhaps the most experienced, veteran line in school history — five seniors who average 246 pounds, including ninth-year coach Dan Joley's twin sons, Cameron and Connor. Cameron missed the entire season last year with a foot injury.

That line will create lanes and pass block for a slew of players that are either new to Kinick or spent time watching the Red Devils lead the Pacific in scoring last year. Six starting skills players graduated, including four-year starting quarterback Kacey Walker. But having an experienced line leading a group of new skills players is a "good problem to have," Joley said.

"To have a line like that makes me feel really comfortable," he said. "Most of them are three-year starters. We know they can move the ball."

Running back Marcus Marion is a sophomore transfer from Arkansas and Trevyn Morton is a senior move-in from Tennessee. Chris Watson, a sophomore, returns at receiver as do Hadyn Guiste and Zach Kornegay, both seniors.

The big question is at quarterback, where Patrick Kelly, a junior, takes over for Walker. He studied at Walker's heels the past two years, but took most of his snaps when Kinick held big leads.

That's where Kadena's key question is as well. Four-year starter Cody Sego has graduated, but his understudy, Wyatt Knopp, a junior, is ready to take over behind "almost the same line" that blocked for Sego last season, longtime Panthers coach Sergio

Mendoza said.

The transfer plane also helped the Panthers, bringing them senior linebacker Ryan Forch from Yokota, along with his father Steven, who's serving as an assistant coach. Chase Salas, a sophomore, has moved in from Las Vegas.

The current backfield of seniors Eric McCarter and Uriah Morris returns with a heap of yards under their belts: A combined 1,683 yards and 20 touchdowns on 163 carries.

Kadena and Kinick still have to get through three other opponents to get back to the championship. Two are familiar foes Kubasaki and American School in Japan. Humphreys, which won the Division II title a year ago, joins D-I for the first time.

"This is good football," Mendoza said. "There isn't chopped liver anywhere in the Pacific. We've got some good games. We need to grow up pretty fast."

Humphreys fetes the occasion with its largest player pool in the school's six-year history: 43. The program also features a junior varsity team for the first time.

"One game at a time, don't worry about the other teams, focus on our game plan and play a solid four quarters," coach Steve Elliott said. "Our motto is what we live by."

While Humphreys boasts its biggest numbers ever, neither ASIJ nor Kubasaki will field a JV team this season, with the Mustangs down to 37 players and the Dragons having 27 to begin practice.

The big question at Mustang Valley is how ASIJ will replace quarterback Jack Ambrosino and his 5,000-plus yards and 60-plus touchdowns over three years. "A coach can't replace a player like him," coach Roy Tomlinson said. Senior Oliver Rogers moves from wide receiver to quarterback.

In Dragonland, there's a pronounced lack of interior size to go with the thin numbers, something longtime coach Fred Bales says is a "recurring theme." Seniors Alvin Mack and Skyler Klimek appear to be key elements if the Dragons are to return to the D-I title game for the first time since 2015.

## D-I team capsules

### Humphreys Blackhawks

**Head coach** — Steve Elliott, third season.  
**Returning players** — 12. Returning starters — 7.

**Key performers** — (Statistics, regular season) — Miles Brice, Sr., QB (49-for-120, 1,031 yards, 13 TDs, 10 INTs; 270 yards, 2 TDs, 31 carries); David Key, Jr., FB-DL (622 yards, 5 TDs, 52 carries; 42 tackles, 6 for loss, 2 fumble recoveries); Christian Franco, Sr., RB-DE (33 tackles, 3 for loss); ShyVoda Greene, Jr., WR-CB-KR (283 yards, 4 TDs, 8 catches; 52 tackles, 12 passes defended, 2 INTs, 4 fumble recoveries); Brent Carver, Sr., RB-LB (transferred from Seoul American); David Van Vechten, Sr., PK-P.

**Strengths** — Speed, talent, experience at skills positions.

**Drawbacks** — Not much interior size or depth; handling the promotion to Division I.  
**Overview** — Reloading-contending. This is certainly the largest team the Blackhawks have ever fielded, 43 players at Tuesday's practice. Veterans dot the lineup in all facets. How will they deal with facing large schools instead of small schools? They find out quite soon when last year's runner-up Nile C. Kinnick comes calling Sept. 15.

### Kadena Panthers

**2017 record** — 6-2. Beat 23-22 Kinnick for Far East Division I title.  
**Head coach** — Sergio Mendoza, 12th season, 63 overall, Pacific-region six D-I titles (2007, '09-'10, '14-'15, '17).

**Returning players** — 14. Returning starters — 11.  
**Key performers** — Uriah Morris, Sr., FB-LB (546 yards, 4 touchdowns, 70 carries); Eric McCarter, RB-DB (1,137 yards, 16 touchdowns, 33 carries); Wyatt Knopp, Jr., QB; Chase Salas, Sr., L (transferred from Las Vegas); Christian Tjilstra, Sr., RB-DB; Alphonso Munoz, Jr., R-LB; Rose, Jr., DE; Logan Fitch, Sr., OLB (transferred from Yokota); Derek Hines, Sr., DE.

**Strengths** — Solid experience and depth in the interior and backfield on both sides of the ball. Explosive speed in McCarter out of the backfield and on returns.

**Drawbacks** — Replacing four years of quarterback and leadership with departure of Cody Sego.

**Overview** — Contending. Many of the key components that contributed to 2017 title appear to meet the challenge of trying to stay on top.

### Kubasaki Dragons

**2017 record** — 1-6.  
**Head coach** — Fred Bales, 14th season, Overall record 45-39, two D-I titles (2013).

**Returning players** — 7. Returning starters — 7.  
**Key performers** — Wyatt Klimek, Sr., QB-DB; Alvin Mack, Sr., QB-WR; Vincent Hill, Sr., RB; Hayden Williamson, Sr., LB-RB; Jaylan Penny, Sr., L; Hayden Peterson, Jr., L; Christopher Edwards, Sr., WR-CB; Lucas Kappen, Jr., L (transferred from Perry).

## D-II team capsules

### Edgren Eagles

**2017 record** — 1-5 overall.  
**Head coach** — Jeremy Sanders, fourth season, 4-1 overall.

**Returning players** — 5. Returning starters — 5.  
**Key performers** — Raphael Lynkins, Sr., QB-FB; Bradley McClure, Jr., MLB-RB; Ethan Barry, Jr., G-LB-DL; Jason Dudley, Jr., G-DL; Matthew Nichols, Jr., WR.

**Strengths** — Good core of experienced veterans, mostly third- or fourth-year guys.

**Drawbacks** — Small in numbers, small in size, especially in the interior.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Same problem the program had two seasons ago, a lack of numbers. Should they field enough players to have a season or should they wait until the season is over to see if the Eagles still have their work cut out for them staying with the rebuilding team.

### Daegu Warriors

**2017 record** — 4-3 overall.  
**Head coach** — Blake Sims, third season.  
**Returning players** — 7. Returning starters — 7.

**Key performers** — (Statistics, regular season) — Sam Murphy, Sr., RB-QB-MLB; Ethan Rodriguez, Sr., RB-QB (transferred from Stuttgart, Germany); Michael Boban, Jr., MLB-RB; Ethan Barry, Jr., G-LB-DL; Jason Dudley, Jr., WR-LB-RB; Nikolai Chumachenko, Sr., OL.

**Strengths** — Size in the line gives the quarterback a second set of numbers.

**Drawbacks** — Lack of numbers, depth throughout roster, many players learning new positions.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Plenty of progress made in the first weeks the team's been together, but the players for the most part are not to football except for just a few. If they can't get it together, Daegu could struggle for the D-II title.

### Osan Cougars

**2017 record** — 2-3 playing a non-varsity schedule.  
**Head coach** — Jerome Learman, first season (coached for the Red Devils in Michigan and Alabama).

**Returning players** — 4. Returning starters — 3.  
**Key performers** — Carson Nugent, Jr., OL-DL; Aaron Gley, Jr., WR-CB-KR; Alex Martinez, Jr., OL-DL; Dorian Johnson, Sr., WR-LB; Sean Villanueva, Jr., QB.

**Strengths** — Good size in the interior.

**Drawbacks** — Thin in numbers, lack of experience at key spots.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Learman says he's turned around programs in both states where he's coached, and he expects the Cougars to move upward from 2016, when the team did not play.

### Perry Samurals

**2017 record** — 6-2. Lost Far East D-I championship 39-0 at Humphreys.

**Returning players** — 7. Returning starters — 7.  
**Key performers** — Marshall China, Jr., OL-DL (36 total, 6 for loss); R.J. Mack, 2 fumble recoveries; Kristian Irons, Sr., RB-LB; Nemo Matthews, Sr., LB-LB; Derek Jacques, Sr., OL-DL.

### Strengths — Experience at skills positions.

**Drawbacks** — Lack of depth, lack of size, especially in the line; should be play of the Red Devils' ironman duty on both sides of the ball.

**Overview** — The experience of the players out is as few as the Dragons have been since the advent of the Far East playoffs in 2005. Plenty of potential for growth; injuries could set things back big.

### Kinnick Red Devils

**2017 record** — 8-1. Lost Far East D-I title game 23-22 to Kadena.

**Head coach** — Dan Joley, ninth season. Overall record 36-34, DODEA-Japan titles in 2013, 2014 and 2017; Kanto Plain title in 2016-17.

**Returning players** — 17. Returning starters — 10.  
**Key performers** — Patrick Kelly, Jr., QB; Marcus Marion, So., RB-LB (transferred from Arkansas); Trevyn Morton, Sr., RB-CB (transferred from Tennessee); Cameron Joley, Sr., OL-DL; Cameron Joley, Sr., OL-LB; Jacob Loffredo, Sr., OL-DL; Chris Mason, Sr., OL-DL; Kemal Newton, Sr., OL-DL; Chris Watson, So., WR-DB; Hadyn Guiste, Sr., WR-DB; Zach Kornegay, Sr., WR.

**Strengths** — Experience at most positions, particularly on both sides of the interior. Good senior core.

**Drawbacks** — If there is any, most of the skill-positions players are new starters.

**Overview** — Contending. Putting the heartbeat of last October's D-I title loss doesn't seem an issue with this crew. A solid favorite to repeat their DODEA Japan and Kanto Plain titles and possibly reach their second straight D-I title.

### American School in Japan Mustangs

**2017 record** — 5-2.  
**Head coach** — Roy Tomlinson, second season (offensive coordinator from 2005-15).

### Key performers

Nash Rasmussen, Jr., LB-K-P (transferred from Utah); Oliver Rogers, Sr., QB-LB; Alvin Mack, Sr., QB-WR; Ryan Forch, Sr., RB-DB; Tyler Cross, Sr., K-WR; Dean Hahne, Sr., WR-DB; Adam Knodel, Sr., WR.

**Strengths** — Rogers Tomlinson calls him one of the toughest and best players he's ever coached.

**Drawbacks** — Many first-year players learning how to play the game. Lack of a junior-varsity feeder program for the first time since 1989. Having to replace Jack Ambrosino, the team's quarterback the three previous seasons.

**Overview** — Reloading. Many of the skills-positions players who led 27 touchdowns in 2016 years ago are long gone, and the interior doesn't possess the size and quickness of that team. Rogers is capable in the line and under center, but he can't replace Ambrosino?

**Strengths** — Youth. Players, especially the underclass and newer ones, are coachable, they listen and are willing to work hard.

**Drawbacks** — Youth. Inexperience throughout lineup, lack of depth, need for 27 touchdowns.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Graduations and transfers completely readed the roster of a team that had the previous two D-II game wins, including 2016. Nowhere to go but up, says Macias, for a team that looks much like one in 2012, when the program was rebooting after a long hiatus.

### Yokota Panthers

**2017 record** — 4 overall, 3-1 Division II regular season.

**Head coach** — Tim Pujol, 20th season, overall record 142-37, 14 DODEA-Japan and Kanto titles, five Rising Sun Bowl championships, two Far East Division I titles.

### Returning players

8. Returning starters — 2.  
**Key performers** — Cameron Ewens, Sr., G-DL; Ethan Smith, Sr., OL-DL; Cameron Abilene, Cooper, Texas); Ethan Guage, Sr., QB; Nick Yates, Jr., QB-RB-LB; Taylor Jenkins, Jr., OL-DL; Austin Fisher, Jr., LB-OT (sidelined first six weeks of season with fractured thumb); Dwight Phillips, Jr., C; Eli Phillips, Sr., DB-TE.

**Strengths** — Experience at some positions; camaraderie.

**Drawbacks** — Lack of depth, lack of numbers; lowest number of players the team has ever fielded.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Second straight season the Panther program doesn't have a junior varsity line to develop players. The Mustangs are one of its larger squads. It could be a long season in Panther Country.

### Zama Trojans

**2017 record** — 1-6 overall.  
**Head coach** — Scott Bolin, fourth season (seventh year with program), 3-19 overall, 136.

**Returning players** — 12. Returning starters — 4.  
**Key performers** — Nick Kadena, Jr., QB; Sean Sullivan, Sr., WR-CB; Justin Brown, Sr., C-DL; Luke Singer, Sr., WR-LB; Sean Kadena, Jr., WR.

**Strengths** — Experience and speed, decent line size.

**Drawbacks** — Lack of numbers, particularly in the interior, lack of depth, many players having to iron out.

**Overview** — Reloading, hoping to contend. Team has gone 6-33 the last five years and hasn't had a winning season since 2012; hence, no players on the team are wanted to stay.

Bolin says he hopes for a victory or a competitive first game to see where Zama stands going forward.

## HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Junior Layla Standbridge headlines a group of three returners for Yokota's girls tennis team.

## Tennis

## ASIJ's absence lifts hopes for Far East

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

After basking in what coach Amanda Vinson called a "dream season" for Kubasaki's tennis team, Shannon Hyde and the Dragons face a 2018 season in which they'll be starting over in many respects.

But in the mind of Vinson, in her third year at Kubasaki, the future is bright — if the number of players who showed up for try-outs is an indicator.

"I am so happy to have the opportunity to work with the tennis program and these kids," said Vinson, whose Dragons were second behind five-time champion American School in Japan in the overall Division I standings at the Far East championships.

Sixteen players came out to compete for spots in the girls lineup, which will feature senior returners Carolina Rivera and Lili Manzi, along with Johnson's younger sister, Allyson, a freshman.

It might be a bit harder on the boys side, where there's "quite a dropout" after Hyde, Vinson said. "It's going to be a challenge for me to keep Shannon motivated this season and to challenge him enough that he can continue to grow as a player."

One school that won't stand in Kubasaki's or any other's way come this Far East is ASIJ, which has opted to play in a tournament in October at United World College in Singapore, which permits them to bring all 12 boys and girls players, instead of just the four they could bring to Far East.

Since the Mustangs won all five titles at last Far East, ASIJ going to Singapore "opens things up a lot," coach Mark Lange of Matthew C. Perry said.

Lange spoke of E.J. King's Takumi Kodama, a sophomore and DODEA Japan doubles runner-up last year, whom Lange called an "excellent player; just needs more confidence." Seniors Jonathan Lee and Akira Goodman give the Cobras a potentially potent attack.

Lange's own senior girls sin-

## Players to watch

Shannon Hyde, Jr., Kubasaki, reigning Okinawa boys singles and doubles champion.

Sarah Omachi, Jr., Seisen, 2016 Far East singles runner-up, doubles champion (did not attend last year).

Daniel Posthumus, Sr., Nile C. Kinnick, DODEA Japan boys singles A runner-up, doubles champion.

Akira Goodman, Sr., E.J. King, DODEA Japan boys singles B champion, doubles runner-up.

Ben Sessions, Sr., Daegu, 2016 Korea Red Division doubles champion.

gles players Sarah Saiki and Marion Vesprey also might stand a chance as well.

"The possibilities are endless,"

Kadena coach Aaron Fisk said. His Panthers will challenge Kubasaki for district supremacy behind a girls team led by veterans Kobi Davis and Maddie Tsirlis, among others.

Girls singles players still have to get through Sarah Omachi, the Seisen junior who finished second in girls singles and won girls doubles in the 2016 Far East tournament.

Other teams bolstered by veterans include Nile C. Kinnick, which has almost its entire lineup intact, led by junior Daniel Posthumus and senior Tomaki Farmon. Nico Hindie returns as coach after a year's hiatus.

Zama, which won Division II last year, welcomes a new coach, Oscar Baldemor, and faces a rebuilding job after losing senior twins Megan and Marissa Petros. Another team starting over is Robert D. Edgren, with a new coach, Chris Herrera.

There are also new coaches at Seoul American and Daegu. Scott Rumery takes over the Falcons after having not coached since the mid-1990s at RAF Chicksands; his lineup features junior Hana Ro and senior Kai Bufkin.

Zachary Zendejas takes the reins at Daegu, which features 2016 Korea Blue doubles champion Ben Sessions.

Matt Pollack is back for his third season as Humphreys coach. Ronnie Holley returns to coach Osan.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

## Division II football

## Low numbers leave teams short on experience, size

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — As young and thin in the ranks as the Pacific's Division II football teams are this coming season, it wouldn't be surprising if some coaches made out the following sign to place outside their classroom doors:

"Help wanted. Big, brawny boys needed for high school football team. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Open to all grades. Inquire within."

That's how it is across the board at the four D-II schools in Japan and the two in Korea. Zama, Perry, Yokota and Edgren in Japan and Kobas's Osan and Daegu average less than 20 players per roster, with not a great deal of size or playing experience.

Perry, which went to the last two D-II title games, is in perhaps the best shape. It began practice with 27 players and will open the season with 22, most of them new to the game.

"It's a whole new crew," coach Frank Macias said. "They're enthusiastic, they're excited about carrying on who we are, but doing it in our own way. We're starting to feel our oats a little. But we coaches have our work cut out for us."

That work starts in the interior, where just two sizeable players line up, junior Marshall China and senior Derek Jacques. Experience is lacking in the rest of the line, as well as a pronounced lack of size.

And there's the matter of replacing the team's top five running backs who totaled 1,356 yards and 22 touchdowns on 262 carries.

"We have good discipline and teamwork," China said. "If we will just good football, we can still hang a banner."

This season, it's Japan's turn to host the D-II final. Humphreys, which has moved up to Division I, captured the small-schools banner last Oct. 28 by beating Perry 39-0 at Blackhawks Field.

Zama, which hasn't been to the D-II final since beating Edgren 35-20 in 2012, also is wanting for size, but brings back a strong core of skill-position players, led by senior quarterback Nick Canada. They're also hungry after a 2017 season of tough defeats.

"They have a chip on their shoulder" from last season, coach Scott Bolin said.

"For a lot of them, it was an eye-opening experience, most of them had never played before."

Yokota was primed to head back to Division I, after playing three seasons as a small-school team. But after only a week at



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Eagles defenders Ethan Barry and Matthew Nichols go up for an interception under coach Jeremy Sanders' watchful eye.

the large-school level, the school and the DODEA Japan district asked to return to D-II, which was granted by DODEA Pacific's area office.

For the second straight year, Yokota won't have a junior varsity team. Six players from last year were responsible for every one of Yokota's 230 points last season. They all graduated or transferred.

"I just show up every day and coach the boys that are here, move on, one drill at a time, one station at a time, one practice at a time, one game at a time, and we're going to rebuild," said coach Tim Pujol, with a school-record 142 coaching victories and two D-I titles to his credit.

Edgren appeared to be on the ropes, with just 12 players at the start of the week of Aug. 20-26. But an all-call and publicity blitz within the school and community saved the team from folding. Coach Jeremy Sanders begins the campaign with 20 bodies, many of whom have never played before.

"Until we're actually back on the field, we can't afford to lose any bodies," Sanders said. The

Eagles begin play Oct. 6 and have a limited four-game slate.

Daegu has not been back to the D-II final since winning its third straight title in 2015. Some size dots the Warriors' 19-man roster, but the quarterback job is up in the air with the graduation of Michael Martinez; four players are battling for the position.

They range from the teeny-tiny in junior Michael Bobadilla to the mid-sized in senior captains Ethan Rodriguez and Sam Murphy, to the outsized in senior Elijah Bembschew, a baseball pitcher with a strong arm.

And after not having fielded a varsity team since 2015, Osan is back competing for the D-II title with just 18 players, but they're all big — as big as they've been since competing for the small-schools title last decade.

Jerome Learman, new to DODEA, transferred in from Alabama. He coached winning teams in Michigan for 19 seasons and Alabama for three.

"I've turned around two programs before and I see a lot of similarities here," he said.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com



## HIGH SCHOOL

## Kubasaki healthy and hungry

Dragons took their lumps last year, look to return to D-I throne

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The 2017 volleyball season could be summed up in two words for Kubasaki: injuries and disappointments.

Two of the Dragons' stars didn't suit up at all last season, and others were forced to the sideline with assorted dings and bruises. Kubasaki didn't have a senior in the lineup and they missed a chance to win their fourth straight title.

But the Dragons dominated American School in Japan in straight sets, 26-24, 25-13, 25-20, for third place in Far East and left them eager for the upcoming season, senior Donatella Barone said.

"At the start (of the 2017 Far East), we thought we might finish last," Barone said. But the Dragons settled on a lineup that worked, they found their stride "and we got so much farther than we thought. We ended on our best game of the season."

A year older, a year wiser, a year having taken so many lumps have brought Kubasaki to a 2018 season in which the Dragons say they're confident of their chances of regaining the D-I title.

"We'll be a force to be reckoned with," Barone said.

It's a team of veterans, including two who played on the Far East title teams in 2016 and 2017, Barone and senior setter Mimi Larry. But there are others who grew and matured from their experience last season, and 10th-year coach Mike Hogen says he's pleased with what he's seeing so far.

"I'd say we have some standouts and others coming into form," Hogen said. Among the latter are sophomore outside hitter Zoey Weidley, senior libero Anya Andrade and versatile freshman Alyssa Alvarado, new to Kubasaki but not new to volleyball, having played club ball in El Paso, Texas.

"I'm happily surprised" at how well the Dragons are progressing, Hogen said, adding that he feels his team is "ahead of where they were" at this time last year.

Much rests with the synergy between Larry and the front-line hitters, Hogen said. "Mimi makes some good decisions, she's developing her own analytical skills," Hogen said, adding that Larry always knows where the hitters are on the court "and she has options. And (Barone) was very improved."

That may be tough news for the rest of the D-I field, whose teams are rebuilding in one sense or another.

## High-powered cross country teams rebuilding

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

## YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan

Nothing lasts forever, especially when chasing multiple Far East cross country team championships is concerned.

That's the view of both coach Luke Voth of two-time Far East Division I champion Nile C. Kinnick and coach Dan Galvin of three-time Division II champion Yokota.

Much needs to be done, each says, to rebuild key portions of their teams lost to transfer and graduation.

"We'll still be competitive, but we have a lot of building to do," Voth said.

"We still have some talent, a lot of young talent. But the girls, they have some growing to do."

That's to be expected, Voth said, when the Red Devils bade farewell to last year's Far East champion Taryn Cates-Beier, who graduated along with teammate Erin Stonebarger. Rissa Eilmes left after her sophomore year.

That leaves Annabelle Stafford, a senior who ran in the shadow of those three, and who now takes the torch as the Red Devils'

## Returning All-Far East runners

**Boys**  
**Division I**  
Akimanzi Sibbo, Sr., Kinnick; Daniel McIntosh, Sr., Humphreys; Hayden Bilis, Sr., Kadena; Trevor Williams, Jr., Kadena; Jaxson Smith, Sr., Kinnick; Joshua Minimo, Sr., Kinnick; Slamaack Porter, So., Kinnick; Guy Reinulder, Sr., Kadena; Devynn Lewis, Jr., Humphreys.

**Division II**  
Mickey Galvin, Jr., Yokota; Jaxon Anderson, Sr., Oas; Jun Royster, Sr., Edgren; David Carlson, Jr., Yokota; Ty Grier, Jr., Stafford; Kaelin Elliott, Jr., Kinnick; E.K. King, Ethan Hovenkotter, So., Edgren.

**Girls**  
**Division I**  
Teanna Bellamy, Sr., Kinnick; Devynn Mortensen, So., Seoul; Emma Koskin, Jr., Kubasaki; Victoria Shore, So., Seoul.

**Division II**  
Sydney Durhan, So., Edgren; Emily Swain, Jr., Yokota; Momomi Atkinson, Sr., Edgren; Madison DeBer, Jr., Yokota; Kaelin Elliott, So., Humphreys; Briana Aviles, Jr., King.

## lead girls runner.

"I'm going to try, but they'll definitely be missed," Stafford said, adding that she's trying to follow in the footsteps of those departed stars, but "in my own way."

And not just on the course, either, Stafford said. Those who came before her tried to instill in the entire team "a sense of unity ... it helped make us family, and that helped us become better individual runners."

While Kinnick's girls led the way to the overall school banner last year, it appears

Kubasaki has almost its entire lineup back from last year, including senior Donatella Barone, center, and junior Abigail Robinson, right.

DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

## Volleyball team capsules

**Division I**  
**Humphreys Blackhawks**  
Coach — Cassandra Horne, first season.  
**Key performers** — Jalya Horne, Sr., MB; Cleopatra Cody, Sr., libero; Racquel Barnes, Jr., OH; Ebony Dyer, Sr., MB (transfer from Seoul American); Trinity Barretto, Jr., setter; Felicia Lor, Sr., OH-def.

**Overview** — Reloading. Horne is the team's third coach in three years, but Humphreys, as a school, is growing. The trout pool was the biggest in the school's history and on the additions of Dykes and Barretto and moving Cody back to her natural position, the Blackhawks could become competitive sooner rather than later in Korea Blue.

**Kadena Panthers**  
Coach — Joanna Wyche, fourth season.  
**Key performer** — Dejala Simms, Sr., OH-def.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Must overcome the loss of several starters to graduation. As with any Wyche-coached team, she says, getting the players in synch and thinking as a team is key.

**Kubasaki Dragons**  
Coach — Mike Hogen, 10th season.  
**Key performers** — Donatella Barone, Sr., MB; Mimi Larry, Sr., setter-OH-def.; Abby Robinson, Jr., MB; Anya Andrade, Sr., setter; Zoey Weidley, So., OH-def.

**Overview** — Contending. A year older and stronger and in position to retake the top spots in Okinawa and Far East, the latter which Kubasaki had won three straight years before finishing third last season.

**Kinnick Red Devils**  
Coach — Anthony San Nicolas, fifth season.  
**Key performers** — Sophie Williams, Sr., setter (transferred from California); Melissa Rose, Sr., MB; Tori Ostebrenk, Jr., MB; Jaxson Smith, Sr., OH-def.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight Okinawa-Japan tournaments and 11 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Division II**  
**Dan Warriors**  
Coach — Farizel Mendez, fifth season.  
**Key performers** — Da'Ja Turner, So., MB; Katherine Turner, Sr., setter; Neesha McJr., Sr., setter; Jasmine Litton, Sr., def.; Katherin Johnson, Jr., MB; Reyann Beland, Sr., setter.

**Overview** — Reloading. This could be the team's first season since Kinick Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**E.J. King Cobras**  
Coach — JoAnna Bradford, first season.  
**Key performers** — Marika Smith, Jr., setter; Julianna Boyce, Sr., WH (transferred from Kawano); Noelle Kiefer, So., MB; Yumika Randall, Jr., OH; Maja O'Mara, Jr., OH; Reyana Walker-Yakob, Jr., def.; Hanna O'Mara, Jr., libero.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Reloading. After winning 10 straight regular-season titles, the Red Devils are hoping to start a new run. Replacing departed hitters Exotic Hall and Jade McGinnis wasn't easy, but the team's front line is strong and the addition of Williams was huge.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Plenty of veterans and most, but not starters. Good potential, should grow and get stronger as season progresses and possibly come back as veterans.

**Edgren Eagles**  
Coach — Sarah Richardson, 28th season.  
**Key performer** — Lily Enanoria, Jr., OH-def.

**Overview** — After another off-season of graduation, the Eagles find themselves starting off again as the players are brand new to the sport.

**Perry Samurai**  
Coach — Chris Munsell, first season.  
**Key performers** — Katie Munsell, So., OH-def; Jaxson Smith, Sr., OH-def; Tanja Smith, Jr.; Bryana McPhillip, Jr.; Maralena Garcia, Sr.; Annalisa Garcia, Jr.; Kayla Averett, Sr.; Kenzie Smith, Jr.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Starting over with a new coach and a group of players smallish but quick and tenacious, possessing the potential to be in the conversation come the tournaments.

**Osan Cougars**  
Coach — Matthew Jellifer, first season.  
**Key performers** — Elizabeth White, Sr., OH-def; Maja Inthavixay, Sr., MB; Vinnie Wengert, So., setter; Izzy Lewis, Jr., OH-MB (transferred from Fort Bliss, Texas); Kileysha Schiers, So., setter; Kalista Luzana, Jr., def.; setter; Allie Richardson, So., def.; Madison Taylor, Jr., OH-def; Jo Barton-Jensen, So., MB; Sky Cervantes, Jr., OH-def.

**Overview** — Reloading-contending. Could win D-I title, but senior past D-I vision it champion in competing for the title. The team is still young and needs to gain in which the Cougars took their share of lumps.

**Seoul American Falcons**  
Coach — Emily McCormick, first season.  
**Key performers** — Sabrina Kim, Sr., OH; Ashley Jackson, Sr., libero; Jaylyn Knight, So., MB; Olivia Kirschner, So., OH.

**Overview** — Rebuilding. Solid in the back with three-year starter Clifton at libero, but young and green just about everywhere else. Expect star last year's JV team coach to vary.

**Yokota Panthers**  
Coach — Emily Melkote, first season.  
**Key performers** — Adrianna Diaz, Jr., MB; Caleigh Garcia, Jr., OH; Haley Singleton, Jr., OH.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Not only do the Panthers have to get along without graduated setter Krista Hall and Jaxson Smith, but they also have to replace a veteran hitting blind in Diaz and Garcia, and some players with potential.

**Zama Trojans**  
Coach — Jennifer Smith, fifth season.  
**Key performers** — Jessica Atkinson, Jr., MB; Kate Holtquist, Jr., setter; Leah Fack, Jr., OH.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

**Overview** — Rebuilding-reloading. Came in just short in their bid for a first Far East title in 20 years; Trojans have much to challenge again, but bloodlines mean anything. Flack is the daughter of former two All-Marine D-I.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Gamecocks eager for Bulldogs showdown

By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley is excited about his team's new, fast-paced offense. He believes the 24th-ranked Gamecocks will be able to move the ball effectively this week against No. 3 Georgia.

Bentley passed for a career-high four touchdowns in a 49-16 season-opening win over Coastal Carolina of the Sun Belt Conference. The snaps came quickly, as did the points — the Gamecocks scored their most points in a game in five years.

The QB knows that Coastal Carolina is not Georgia.

"You take a lot of good away from Coastal and use that this week," Bentley said Tuesday. "I think the way we were able to move the ball and execute effectively is a positive. Georgia's got a lot of great players so we've got to execute even better and continue to build on what we did last week."

The Gamecocks are back in the Top 25 for the first time since 2014, cracking the rankings on Tuesday. It's a milestone coach Will Muschamp will spend almost no time thinking about or discussing with players.

"If I do discuss it, it will be a solid, 15 seconds of a waste of our time," Muschamp said.

More important to Muschamp is beating Georgia, something he and the Gamecocks have not been able to do recently on a regular basis.

Muschamp is a woeful 1-5 as a head coach against the Bulldogs,



South Carolina quarterback Jake Bentley, right, hands off to wide receiver Deebo Samuel on Saturday against Coastal Carolina. The Gamecocks step up in competition this week when they play No. 3 Georgia.

SEAN RAYFORD/AP

the last two of those losses coming as South Carolina coach. The Gamecocks weren't blown out in either defeat — 28-14 in 2016 and 24-14 last year — but their defensive line struggled to contain Georgia's run game and the offense couldn't get going against the Bulldogs' defense.

South Carolina linebacker

Bryson Allen-Williams said the Gamecocks have upgraded their personnel and worked to improve their techniques. He knows, too, that toppling Georgia could get those skeptical about the Gamecocks to take another look.

"They competed for the national championship last year," he said. "They've got talented players,

just like we have talented players. The biggest thing is just us taking all games the same and not doing what some guys like to do in getting up for certain games."

Bentley completed 22 of 29 passes for 250 and threw touchdowns to four receivers. One of those, returning playmaker Deebo Samuel, had a stunning,

one-handed grab stretching out in the end zone.

Samuel, a senior back from a broken leg that caused him to miss this game a year ago, sees a more polished approach from Bentley and the offense as the tempo has increased.

"Everybody has talked about what we need to do to win this game," he said. "And that's what we're going to do."

Muschamp does not want his players cycling up and down through the season, rather building an even-keeled approach where they execute well and don't get caught up in what's ahead.

He understands the winner Saturday has early control of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division. But no matter, there's a lot of football to be played after Saturday's Top 25 matchup.

Muschamp simply wants the Gamecocks to play with as much efficiency and effort as they did in the opener.

Some at Georgia see a mirror-image of the Bulldogs in the Gamecocks.

"They kind of remind me of our team with the receivers, running backs and smart quarterback that they have," Georgia safety J.R. Reed said.

That's not surprising since both Muschamp and Georgia coach Kirby Smart are friends and cut from a similar Nick Saban coaching tree as his one-time assistants.

"It would be a statement to come out of here and win," Bentley said. "If we're going to do that we've got to prepare the right way first."

## DE Kareem a rising star for Irish

By TODD BURLAGE  
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — With a first-year starter at defensive end and two other linemen trying out new positions next to him, having coach Brian Kelly consistently call this position group the most stable on the Notre Dame defense seemed like a stretch of logic through the preseason.

If the 24-17 win over Michigan is any indication, Kelly knew what he had.

Paced by junior defensive end Khalid Kareem, the line combined for 15 total tackles, 3.5 tackles for loss, three sacks and two quarterback hurries to keep the Wolverines off balance and their running game almost non-existent in the impressive season-opening win. Through the first three quarters, Michigan managed just 178 total yards and converted only three of nine third down plays into first downs.

"We have to have that kind of defensive depth," Kelly said of an expanded player rotation he threw at Michigan. "We're not generally going to get that one singular star player, but we can develop depth in our group and have that kind of defensive structure where we can roll out a lot of really good football players."

In his first career start, Kareem was particularly good, recording eight total tackles, 1.5 tackles for loss, one sack and one critical quarterback hurry. Kareem's disruptive play kept Michigan quarterback Shea Patterson out of rhythm and often on his back. Patterson completed 20 of his 30 passes for 227 yards but he had no touchdowns and was picked off once.

One of the tone-setting plays of the game came in the first quarter when Kareem dropped Patterson for a 16-yard sack that took the Wolverines out of field-goal range and preserved Notre Dame's 14-0 lead.

"As long as I go out there and do my job, I feel like I can be the best in the country," said Kareem, who inherited the starting end position when Jay Hayes decided in April to transfer to Georgia.

On Michigan's final possession and Notre Dame holding a seven-point lead, the 6-foot-4, 265-pound Detroit native pressured Patterson into a strip-sack and fumble recovery by senior tackle Jerry Tillery.

"We are ascending as a position group, and as a defense and as a team," said Tillery, who added four tackles and two sacks. "So I'm excited for this season and this team."

Kareem explained after the game that the predictability of Patterson's pre-snap routine helped contribute to the game clinching play.

"I was getting a rhythm with their snap count," Kareem said. "I got a good jump on the ball, beat the tackle, made the play."

After appearing in four games with no statistics as a freshman in 2016, Kareem made the most of his limited game action last season as a backup to Hayes. In 13 games but minimal snaps, Kareem was still able to record 21 tackles, including five for loss with three sacks and one fumble recovery.

"(Kareem) has a knack for pass rushing," Kelly said, "just has a knack of being there and getting to the quarterback. He has some really innate ability to find the quarterback."

Notre Dame's work up front against the Michigan passing game was notable but the success at stopping the run had an even greater impact. Michigan also had only four rushing first downs, gained 10 yards on a rushing play just once and went 0-for-3 on fourth-down conversions.

"Our evaluation of our defensive front was relentless effort, play in and play out," said Kelly, whose team hosts Ball State on Saturday.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Notre Dame defensive lineman Khalid Kareem sacks Michigan quarterback Shea Patterson during the first half on Saturday. A late-season surge in 2017 followed by a stellar showing in spring ball earned Kareem, a junior, the chance to be a starter.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Top 25 schedule

Friday
No. 16 TCU at SMU
Saturday
No. 1 Alabama vs. Arkansas State
No. 2 Clemson at Texas A&M
No. 3 Georgia at No. 24 South Carolina
No. 4 Ohio State vs. Rutgers
No. 5 Wisconsin vs. New Mexico
No. 6 Oklahoma vs. UCLA
No. 7 Auburn vs. Alabama State
No. 8 Notre Dame vs. Ball State
No. 9 Washington vs. North Dakota
No. 10 Stanford vs. No. 17 Southern Cal
No. 11 LSU vs. SE Louisiana, 7 p.m.
No. 12 Virginia Tech vs. William & Mary
No. 13 Penn State at Pittsburgh
No. 14 West Virginia vs. Youngstown St.
No. 15 Michigan State at Arizona State
No. 18 Mississippi St. at Kansas State
No. 19 UCF vs. SC State
No. 20 Boise State vs. UConn
No. 21 Michigan vs. Western Michigan
No. 22 Miami vs. Savannah State
No. 23 Oregon vs. Portland State
No. 25 Florida vs. Kentucky

## Service academies



at Florida Atlantic  
Last week: Beat Stony  
Brook 38-0



vs. Liberty  
Last week: Lost to Duke  
34-14



vs. Memphis  
Last week: Lost to Hawaii  
59-41

## Power 5 standings

ACC	Conf.	Overall
Atlantic		
Boston College	0	0
Clemson	0	1
Wake Forest	0	1
NC State	0	1
Syracuse	0	1
Covington	0	1
Florida State	0	1
Coastal		
Virginia Tech	1	0
Duke	0	0
Georgia Tech	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0
Virginia	0	0
North Carolina	0	0
Miami	0	0
Big 12		
Baylor	0	0
Kansas State	0	1
Oklahoma	0	1
Oklahoma State	0	1
TCU	0	1
West Virginia	0	1
Iowa State	0	1
Texas	0	1
Texas Tech	0	1
Kansas	0	1
Big Ten		
East		
Michigan State	0	0
Indiana	0	0
Marshall	0	0
Rutgers	0	0
Ohio State	0	0
Penn State	0	0
Michigan	0	0
West		
Northwestern	1	0
Minnesota	0	0
Illinois	0	0
Iowa	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0
Nebraska	0	0
Purdue	0	1
Pac-12		
North		
California	0	0
Stanford	0	1
Oregon	0	1
Washington State	0	1
Oregon State	0	1
Washington	0	1
South		
Arizona State	0	0
Colorado	0	1
Utah	0	1
USC	0	1
Arizona	0	1
SEC		
East		
Georgia	0	0
Kentucky	0	0
South Carolina	0	0
Florida	0	0
Missouri	0	0
Vanderbilt	0	0
Tennessee	0	1
West		
Alabama	0	0
Arkansas	0	0
Mississippi	0	0
Texas A&M	0	0
Mississippi State	0	0
LSU	0	0



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Southern California quarterback JT Daniels passes against UNLV last week. The freshman will lead the No. 7 Trojans against No. 10 Stanford on Saturday night in a rematch of last year's conference title game.

## Key Power Five matchups

**No. 3 Georgia at No. 24 South Carolina**  
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET;  
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT  
AFN-Sports

**Series record:** Georgia leads 50-18-2.

**What's at stake?:** The winner gets early control of the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division.

The Bulldogs have not lost to South Carolina since 2014 and would love to continue that dominance as they try for another league title and trip to the College Football Playoff. The Gamecocks returned to the Top 25 for the first time in four years this past week.

They hope to validate that inclusion with a victory.

**Key matchup:** QB Jake Fromm of Georgia vs. QB Jake Bentley of South Carolina. The two passers had big days in their openers as both came into the season with lofty expectations. Whoever best plays turnover-free football will likely come out on top.

**Players to watch:** Georgia: RBs D'Andre Swift and Elijah Holyfield: The sophomore Swift and the junior Holyfield have to step in for the Bulldogs' NFL runners from a year ago in Nick Chubb and Sony Michel. Swift got the start against Austin Peay and ran for 43 yards on eight carries. Holyfield had 24 yards on five carries. Both scored TDs.

**South Carolina:** WR Deebo Samuel. He was the Gamecocks' most dynamic playmaker a year ago until he got hurt in the third game and missed the rest of the season. A healthy Samuel returned last week and had seven catches for 56 yards, including a one-handed grab in the end zone.

**Facts & figures:** Georgia has won the past three games in the series, including a 52-20 victory in 2015 where quarterback Greyson Lambert set an NCAA record by completing 24 of 25 passes (96 percent). ... Two years ago, this game at Williams-Brice Stadium was moved to an NFL Sunday because of Hurricane Matthew. Georgia won 28-14 as it gained 326 yards on the ground. ... South Carolina coach Will Muschamp is 1-5 against his alma mater, Georgia. ... Georgia ranked fourth-best in the country at scoring from 20 yards and in last year, getting points on 53 of 55 trips. The Bulldogs started strongly in that regard this year by going 5-for-5 on such drives last week against Austin Peay.

**No. 17 USC at No. 10 Stanford**  
2:30 a.m. Sunday CET;  
9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT  
AFN-Atlantic

**Series record:** USC leads 63-32-3.

**What's at stake:** This is the first big matchup in the Pac-12 this season and a rematch of last year's conference title game won by USC. Both teams are contenders to make it back to the title game this year and don't want to fall in an early hole in the standings.

**Key matchup:** USC run D vs. Stanford

RB Bryce Love. Last year's Heisman runner-up struggled in the opener for Stanford, getting held to 29 yards on 18 carries against a San Diego State defense poised to stop him. He might have more holes to run through this week against a Trojans defense that allowed 308 yards rushing last week against UNLV.

**Players to watch:** USC: QB J.T. Daniels. The heralded freshman fared well in his debut against UNLV last week, throwing for 282 yards and a 43-yard TD to Amon-Ra St. Brown. The task gets much tougher this week against a more formidable Stanford defense.

**Stanford:** WR JJ Arcega-White. With the defense focused on Love, Arcega-White caught six passes for 226 yards and three TDs last week. That was his second straight game with three TD catches after also doing it in an Alamo Bowl loss to TCU last year.

**Facts & figures:** USC swept series last year, winning 42-24 at home in September and 31-28 in the conference title game. ... Stanford had won seven of eight in the series before last season. ... Game features brothers at WR with Amon-Ra St. Brown playing for USC and Osiris for Stanford. Amon-Ra's seven catches were the most ever by a USC freshman in a debut. ... Trojans RB Aca/Cedric Ware ran for 100 yards on 10 carries in opener. ... Love had 24 carries last season that went for more yards than his total in the opener. ... The Cardinal have scored in 149 straight games. ... Stanford QB K.J. Costello threw for a career-high 332 yards last week and has 13 TDs, three INTs in his past four games.

**No. 2 Clemson at Texas A&M**  
1 a.m. Sunday, CET;  
8 a.m. Sunday, JKT  
AFN-Sports

**Series record:** Texas A&M leads 3-1.

**What's at stake?:** Clemson looks for its first win in the state of Texas since beating TCU in the 1959 Bluebonnet Bowl against a Texas A&M team that has won 29 straight nonconference games at home, but has lost its last five overall against top 25 opponents. It will be the first test of the season for the Tigers after they handled Furman easily in their opener last week and a chance for new A&M coach Jimbo Fisher to see where his team stacks up against one of college football's elite teams.

**Key matchup:** Clemson's defensive front vs. Texas A&M's offensive line. The Tigers have arguably the best defensive line in the country with first-team All-America end Clelin Ferrell and tackle Christian Wilkins and second-team All-America selection tackle Dexter Lawrence leading the way. The trio will be a big test for a Texas A&M line adjusting to the loss of Koda Martin, who transferred in the offseason.

**Players to watch:** Clemson: QBs Kelly Bryant and Trevor Lawrence. Last year's starter Bryant started the opener, throwing for 127 yards and a touchdown and running for another before Lawrence, who is a freshman, took over and had 137 yards passing with three TD passes. The Aggies must prepare for both players with coach Dabo Swinney saying this week that both would play again on Saturday.

**Texas A&M:** RB Trayvon Williams. The junior will have to have a big game for the Aggies to have any hope of pulling off the upset. Williams was great in the opener, running for a career-high 240 yards and three touchdowns in just more than two quarters to surpass 2,000 yards in his career.

**Facts & figures:** Texas A&M has won both previous meetings in College Station with the last win coming in 2004. ... Clemson has won a school-record 16 straight nonconference games. ... Texas A&M LB Otaro Alaka needs two tackles to reach 200 in his career. ... Swinney is 14-9 against Southeastern Conference opponents. ... Swinney and Fisher are tied at 4-4 against each other, but Swinney's teams have won the last three games.



## NFL

# 'We finally find out'

## Newton eager to see how Turner's schemes, new talent mesh during opener vs. Cowboys

By STEVE REED  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton says he's extremely comfortable playing in new coordinator Norv Turner's scheme and is thrilled with the talent the Panthers have surrounded him with on offense.

But the eighth-year quarterback isn't going out on a limb and making predictions on what Carolina might achieve this season.

"We don't know what we have yet and that is why Sunday is so important for everybody — because we finally find out," Newton said in preparation for the team's home opener against the Dallas Cowboys.

The Panthers added speed at wide receiver — trading for Torrey Smith, signing free agent Jarvis Wright and drafting D.J. Moore from Maryland in the first round. Wide receiver Devin Funchess returns as the No. 1 receiver and three-time Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen is healthy again after missing nine games in 2017 with a foot injury. Second-year running back Christian McCaffrey figures to be a vital part of the offense in the run and pass game, and the Panthers added 1,000-yard rusher C.J. Anderson behind him.

That's a lot of different options for Newton — which coach Ron Rivera said is by design.

Rivera wants Newton to get back to what he was doing in 2015 when he spread the ball, completing at least 10 passes to nine

different receivers. The formula worked well as Newton threw for a career-high 35 touchdowns and won league MVP honors while leading the Panthers to 15 straight wins and a Super Bowl appearance.

"I think that plays very to the type of football team that we want to be," Rivera said. "[Defenses] can't key in on one or two guys and they have to play the whole field and that can work to our advantage if we have guys that can make plays."

Rivera fired offensive coordinator Mike Shula this past offseason after Newton regressed — at least statistically — the past two seasons.

Turner, who Rivera once worked under in San Diego, was hired to bring a little more creativity to the offense — and help improve Newton's poor career 58.5 completion percentage. Newton, who played under Turner understudy Rob Chudzinski earlier in his career, said the adjustment to the offense has been smooth.

Now he's ready to test the waters.

"I'm excited to play a full four quarters of football," Newton said. "... Hopefully we can be hitting on all cylinders as far as efficiency and executing."

Coach Jason Garrett said stopping Newton on Sunday will be key.

"He's big, he's strong, he's athletic, he has a great feel for making plays both as a runner and as a passer," Garrett said. "He can play well within their system. He can play well when the play breaks down. He's just a dynamic guy. He's hard to tackle,



CHUCK BURTON, FILE/AP

**Carolina Panthers offensive coordinator Norv Turner, right, talks with quarterback Cam Newton during practice last month in Charlotte, N.C.. Newton says he's extremely comfortable playing in Turner's scheme and is thrilled with the talent the Panthers have surrounded him with on offense.**

he's hard to tackle in the pocket, he's hard to tackle when he's out on the run, he's got a big, strong arm and can throw the ball anywhere on the field."

Newton enters this season not having to worry about his shoulder being an issue. Rotator cuff surgery last year forced Newton to miss most of OTAs and minicamp and a portion of training camp. He only threw two passes in the 2017 preseason.

Newton said he's in the great shape entering the season.

"A person once told me there are two type of football players in the NFL — there are football players and professional football players," Newton said. "Football play-

ers are those guys that just wake up and think things that happen and professional football players are guys that make things happen."

Newton said he certain goals is mind, but wasn't ready to share them.

The former Heisman Trophy winner said he plans to match all charitable donations to the Cam Newton Foundation and Boys and Girls Clubs of America for every touchdown he scores this season.

"I'm putting my money where my mouth is," Newton said, added he plans to score "a lot."

Just how much, we'll begin to find out on Sunday.

# Vikings staying centered for QB Cousins' debut

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — The Minnesota Vikings will show off their shiny new quarterback in the season opener, formally turning over the on-field leadership of a team built for Super Bowl contention to Kirk Cousins and his fully guaranteed \$84 million contract.

The player directly in front of Cousins, his importance not to be understated, will likely be making his debut with the Vikings at the same time. Brett Jones has been in Minnesota for less than two weeks, but he's on track to start at center Sunday when the Vikings host the San Francisco 49ers. He'll have as much on his plate as anyone wearing purple.

"Kirk's an excellent communicator. He wants things done a certain way, and you've got to be able to try to the best of your ability to try to emulate what he wants," Jones said. "Anytime there's a new center, you want to try to have consistency, so I'm just doing what I'm told and making sure we're all on the same page so whoever's in there can adjust and play well so the Vikings can have success."

Pat Elflein, who performed relatively well as a rookie, just began practicing with the team this week. The Vikings have lost their primary starting guards from



BRUCE KLICKHOHN/AP

**Vikings center Pat Elflein was held out of the entire preseason while rehabbing from ankle and shoulder surgeries, putting his availability for the opener in doubt. He just returned to practice Wednesday, but was listed as a limited participant.**

last year, Nick Easton to injury and Joe Berger to retirement. So, for all the enhancements the Vikings have made to a roster they remedied the NFC championship game with last winter, the offensive line lost more than it gained

over the offseason.

"It's not ideal, but it is what it is," Cousins said. "We're not going to dwell on what we can't control. We're going to focus on what we have and making the best out of it, and I'm excited to build a rapport with Jones and the rest of the O-line so that hopefully we can develop a continuity as the season goes on."

Elflein wore a helmet and full pads at practice Wednesday, but he was listed as a limited participant on the injury report. Considering Elflein was just removed from the physically unable to perform list four days prior, coming off ankle and shoulder surgeries earlier in the year, the chance of him being cleared to play against the 49ers is slim. That leaves Jones, who was acquired in a trade on Aug. 26 with the New York Giants, in the center of attention.

"We're going to coach him all week and then he's going to play center in the NFL like he's done for a lot of games already," Cousins said.

While there's some justifiable concern about using a center who's never snapped the ball to Cousins in a game setting, the chemistry between Jones and the guards and tackles on either side of him is probably even more critical.

"Each person relies on the other person," Jones said. "If one



BRIAN PETERSON, STAR TRIBUNE/AP

**The Vikings' Brett Jones (61) practices with the team on Aug. 27. Jones has been in Minnesota for less than two weeks and has not yet snapped the ball to quarterback Kirk Cousins in a game setting, but could start at center in the season opener Sunday against San Francisco in Minneapolis.**

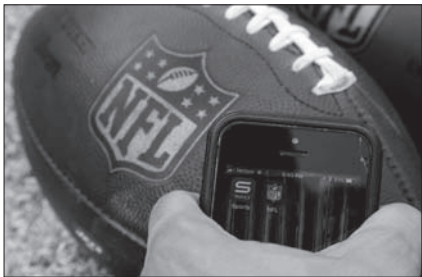
person does one thing bad on offense, it's a glaring tackle in the hole for a loss. If one guy does something bad on defense, you might have a backer or a safety or somebody come down and cover you. On offense, one mistake can be a big mistake."

Danny Isidora, who started one game at left guard as an injury re-

placement for Easton last season as a rookie, has also been taking turns at center. Coach Mike Zimmer said recently he thinks that might actually be Isidora's natural position.

"He stays in balance pretty well there. He keeps his hips square. He's got some power on the double teams," Zimmer said.

## NFL



MATT ROUCHE/AP

Apps for the NFL and Yahoo Sports are displayed on a phone. As the regular season begins, the league is finally dropping a requirement that viewers sign in with a cable or satellite subscription. The subscription-free games will be available on the NFL app and the Verizon-owned Yahoo Sports, Tumblr and AOL apps.

## Free apps will be streaming games

By ANICK JESDANUN

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The good news for football fans: It's going to be much easier to watch NFL games online this year.

The league is finally dropping a requirement that viewers sign in with a cable or satellite subscription, in hopes of expanding its online audience at a time when TV ratings are declining. Though there are restrictions — no free streaming on smart TVs, for instance — the move marks a significant departure for sports. Other major professional leagues still require TV subscriptions for hometown teams.

The NFL regular season starts Thursday.

"We think people will start to watch on the biggest screen possible," said Brian Rolapp, the league's chief business and media officer.

But as more people drop cable or satellite subscriptions — or never sign up in the first place — the NFL needs to be flexible in order to reach them, Rolapp said. Even those who can watch on TV are preferring phones, he said.

"If you don't get to that younger demographic, who aren't conditioned to go to the television, you do run the risk of losing them," he said.

The NFL has been inching toward subscription-free games in recent years. It made a deal with Twitter, then Amazon, to stream a handful of games online. This year, Amazon will offer 11 Thursday night games for free on its Twitch app or on its Prime Video app with a \$119-a-year Prime subscription.

Last season, Verizon customers got subscription-free access on phones to whatever CBS or Fox was broadcasting regionally on Sunday afternoons, plus all the nationally televised games on NBC, ESPN and NFL Network. Now, any wireless customer can get them on both phones and tablets. The one restriction: Seven games

that are exclusive to the NFL Network channel can be viewed only on phones, not tablets.

Online football streaming, estimated by NFL officials at 2 percent to 3 percent of overall viewership, isn't enough yet to offset declines in television viewership. But the NFL believes every viewer counts. A key element in getting the television networks on board: The networks get to sell the majority of ads appearing on those subscription-free streams. Distributors such as Verizon get the rest.

The subscription-free games will be available on the NFL app and the Verizon-owned Yahoo Sports, Tumblr and AOL apps in the U.S. On iPhones and iPads, the games can also be streamed on the Safari web browser.

TV networks will still stream games through their apps, but you'll typically have to sign in with a cable or satellite subscription. That's how you can get games on smart TVs, including streaming-TV devices such as Apple TV and Roku, as well as on laptops and desktop computers. The network apps will stream games on phones, too, something not available before because of Verizon's exclusivity.

Cable-like online streaming packages offer yet another option for TVs. Only two major ones have all five football networks: PlayStation Vue for \$50 a month, and DirecTV Now for \$55. Sling TV offers budget-conscious fans NBC, Fox and NFL Network for \$25. Sling TV and others offer four networks for \$40 or \$45. Some of the over-the-air stations might not be available in your market, especially outside big cities, so check before subscribing.

As for NFL RedZone, a channel that switches from game to game to show key plays and scoring, you can subscribe on phones for \$5 a month. But if you want to watch on other devices, you need to first subscribe to a cable, satellite or online package, then pay extra.

# First task for Packers' Bulaga: taking on Mack

By GENARO C. ARMAS

Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Right tackle Bryan Bulaga is familiar enough with the pass-rushing prowess of Khalil Mack as the Chicago Bears visit Lambeau Field on Sunday night.

No film necessary of Mack playing with his new team.

It'll be up to Bulaga, the veteran Green Bay Packers lineman, to keep Mack out of quarterback Aaron Rodgers' face.

"Well I mean he's a complete player," Bulaga said after practice Wednesday. "He has power, he has speed, he has good hands, so from a pass-rushing standpoint, he is a complete rusher. Then he plays the run really well too. ... He deserves all that money."

A blockbuster trade sent Mack from the Raiders to the Bears last weekend to bolster what could be a dangerous pass rush. Chicago made him the highest-paid defensive player in NFL history with a six-year, \$141 million extension that guarantees \$90 million.

Mack, who missed the whole offseason with Oakland, practiced for the first time Monday with the Bears. He's just getting up to speed, though coach Matt Nagy seems hopeful the prized acquisition will suit up for the latest edition of one of the NFL's marquee rivalries.

"We'll see. We hope so," Nagy said. "I know he wants to, and so as we go here day by day, we're just going to judge it and kind of test him out and get a good feel."

Bears defensive end Akiem Hicks is downright giddy about



JOE MANONEY/AP

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, left, will be depending on left tackle Bryan Bulaga, right, to protect him from Khalil Mack when the Chicago Bears visit Lambeau Field on Sunday.

Mack. Asked about Green Bay's starting offensive line Wednesday, Hicks responded: "I know those five guys can't block Khalil Mack."

The Packers passed when given ample opportunities to respond.

"I don't need to react to every comment that's made," Rodgers said. "I think I've made that pretty clear."

The Packers have faced Mack once before, when Green Bay won 30-20 at Oakland on Dec. 20, 2015. Then a second-year player, Mack had one of his 15 sacks that season in that game, though he had just two tackles.

The Packers, especially the offensive linemen, might take a look at the film again, though there's not a direct correlation to prepar-

ing for Mack with the Bears.

"We're focused on (Bears coordinator Vic) Fangio's defense. They'll plug him in accordingly," Rodgers said. "Not sure how he's going to play, but I would guess they're going to try to get him out there as much as possible. But we'll be ready and look forward to the challenge."

As for Hicks' bulletin-board comment about Mack being unblockable?

"Any offense? It is what it is. Yeah, I have to be prepared to get ready to block him. I have to play a really clean game and block him," Bulaga said. "He's a good football player. It's just a matter of trying to execute your job to the best of your ability throughout the entire game."



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Defensive end Khalil Mack, left, was traded from by the Oakland Raiders to the Chicago Bears after holding out for the entire preseason. The Bear signed Mack to a six-year, \$141 million extension.

## NFL



PHOTOS BY DON WRIGHT/AP

Carolina Panthers defensive end Efe Obada (71) became the first player from the NFL's International Pathway Program to make a final roster, capping a remarkable journey. The Nigerian-born Obada only started playing football four years ago when he turned 22.

## Human trafficking survivor Obada earns spot in Carolina

By STEVE REED  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Defensive end Efe Obada plays like a man fighting for survival when he steps on the football field.

Given his life story, it's understandable.

The Nigerian-born Obada says he was a victim of human trafficking at the age of 10. He said he and his older sister were abandoned in the streets of London.

Now he's a Carolina Panther.

The 26-year-old Obada is hesitant to divulge many details of his past, saying he still has "deep trust issues" with strangers and that he doesn't want to jeopardize losing his focus on maintaining his roster spot.

What he does share is far from the usual path to the NFL.

Obada said when he was 8 years old his mother arranged for him and his older sister to move from Nigeria to the Netherlands, where she was living at the time. After a couple of years of living there, she decided to send the children to the United Kingdom so they could have a better life.

That turned out to be a mistake.

Obada told the Panthers team website the stranger that was supposed to take care of children didn't carry through on the promise. Instead, he and his sister were left alone and homeless. There, they learned to survive until eventually they were discovered and placed in foster care. They moved from home to home until Obada was old enough to make his own decisions.

"I was young and I didn't have any say into what was happening in my life," Obada said. "I was ignorant to it."

According to www.worldschildren.org, 21 million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking — an issue Obada hopes to tackle when he has a more solid platform in the NFL.

Obada said he's simply not ready to talk about the details of what happened during that time of his life. "Some of the issues, I haven't dealt with," Obada said quietly. "I haven't really taken time to understand. ... Right now I just want to focus on football and make the most of it."

Obada went to college in London, where he discovered the game of football for the first time at 22. He caught on with the London Monarchs, the equivalent of an American semi-pro team and helped them win a championship as a tight end and defensive end. He gained some attention there, and got a workout with the Dallas Cowboys while the



Panthers defensive end Efe Obada became the first player from the NFL's International Pathway Program to make a final roster. Obada said he was victim of human trafficking at 10 after he and his older sister were abandoned in London.

team was overseas playing a game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Obada signed with the Cowboys practice squad but was later released. Still, that opened some doors for him and he had brief stints on the Falcons and Chiefs rosters before joining the Panthers practice squad last season.

Obada was chosen as one of four players to participate in the NFL's International Pathway Program, which began in 2017. But he's the only one to make a final 53-man roster, which were determined on Saturday.

He's due to earn \$480,000 this season, significantly more than the \$129,200 that a member of an NFL practice squad makes.

"It instilled a hunger in me that I have until this day," Obada said of his early life experience. "And I feel like I can apply it in a game. It's kind of going into a state of survival — that is what I do every day. I don't take this opportunity for granted."

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said he sees that every day in practice.

The coach said 6-foot-6, 255-pound Obada's passion and drive is one of the things that helped him earn a roster spot over the team's 2017 third-round draft pick Daeshon Hall.

"He practices 100 miles per hour," Rivera said. "I got some guys, they get upset with him because on Friday (during walkthrough practice) he's going hard. But you say to the guys, 'Hey, if you came from where he came from, if you dealt with what he dealt with, that's the way you're going to approach everything in life.'"

## Chargers aiming to hit stride early

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. — An 0-4 start put the Los Angeles Chargers in a hole too deep to escape last season.

Coach Anthony Lynn wants his new team to spend September building instead of digging.

The first few weeks of this season are particularly important to Lynn and the Chargers, a popular pick to win the AFC West and to earn their franchise's second post-season appearance since 2009.

The Bolts went 9-3 after their dismal start to their relocation season, but it wasn't enough to make the playoffs. Lynn seems confident his veteran players learned the importance of early season urgency from last year's setbacks.

"We'll see how we start, but hopefully we start faster than we did last year," Lynn said Monday after the Chargers began preparations for Sunday's home opener against Kansas City.

The Chargers weren't exactly terrible to begin last season: Three of those four losses were by seven total points, and the Chargers were undone twice by missed field goals in the final seconds. But they didn't match the level of play they hit frequently later in the year, when the NFL's top passing offense and an aggressive defense combined to turn the Bolts into one of the NFL's best teams.

"You can't take wins and losses from last season," Lynn said. "I wish you could, but you can't. But you can certainly bring the culture over, and I like the attitude of the players."

The Chargers also feel they've got a reliable kicker after last season's missteps. The team that cycled through four kickers last season is going with Caleb Sturgis, who was the champion Philadelphia Eagles' kicker at the start of last season before getting hurt and missing the bulk of the year.

The Chargers also appear to be getting healthy after several

regulars were slowed by injuries during the preseason.

Defensive end Joey Bosa, receiver Tyrell Williams, rookie defensive tackle Justin Jones and cornerbacks Casey Hayward and Trevor Williams all participated in the Bolts' first practice of the week Monday. Bosa and Hayward, two of their most important defensive players, are expected to be ready to play Sunday.

"My only concern is a boxer needs so many sparring rounds before you go fight, and these guys have been out," Lynn said. "So getting them caught up and back in the fold is my only concern."

Tight end Antonio Gates was in the locker room after signing a one-year deal to return for his 16th season with the Chargers, but he won't return to practice until Wednesday. Lynn is waiting to evaluate the 38-year-old star's readiness before he determines Gates' role this weekend.

"I just want to see his conditioning," Lynn said. "I don't want to put him in a position where he goes out there and hurts himself, and that sets us back four or five weeks. I just don't see us doing that. But Antonio, he's a pro. He'll let me know how he feels at the end of the week and about how his pitch count can be, and we'll talk about it."

Kansas City will be a particular challenge right away for the Chargers, who were beaten soundly twice by the AFC West champions last year. Kansas City essentially sewed up the division with a 30-13 home victory over Los Angeles on Dec. 16 — the Chargers' only loss in seven games to close the season.

Nearly every playmaker from last season's team is back, and they all remember how it felt to be playing catch-up all season long.

"We definitely want to get it going from the start this year, and not wait to get to where we need to go," running back Melvin Gordon said recently. "We've got to be ready."



JAE C. HONG/AP

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers, right, hands the ball to running back Melvin Gordon during practice on Aug. 23 in Costa Mesa, Calif. The Bolts are hoping for a good start to build on for the season.



NFL

# Goff eager to get on field, unveil Rams' offense

## Rams QB not worried with lack of preseason action

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Jared Goff watched the Los Angeles Rams' entire preseason from the sideline. He hasn't thrown a pass in a game since last January, when he lost his first NFL playoff start.

When he steps under the Monday night lights in his native Bay Area, the third-year quarterback is eager to show what he's learned and how he's grown during eight long months without real football.

And for fans expecting a thrilling encore to last season's utter transformation by Goff and the Rams' offense, he plans to have a little something for them, too.

"There's a bunch of stuff we've been working on this offseason that we're ready to display on Monday night," Goff said. "A lot of the stuff is from last season

that we're going to continue to do, and then a lot of new stuff that we're doing. What we're going to do, and how we're going to do it, I don't know. But there's a lot of stuff that we're excited to put on the field finally that we've been working on for so long this offseason."

Goff is aware of the expectations on him as the Rams begin a season with Super Bowl expectations against the Oakland Raiders. With new coach Sean McVay guiding him last year, Goff shrugged off a disappointing rookie season and became one of the NFL's most productive quarterbacks as the Rams doubled their point total from 2016 and made a seven-win improvement in the standings.

Goff got no preseason snaps because McVay decided he didn't want to play his first-string offensive line, which started 15 consecutive games together last season



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

**Rams quarterback Jared Goff passes during training camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Goff believes he is much better equipped for his third season, despite taking no snaps during the preseason.**

and played a major role in keeping Goff upright and effective. So even though Goff probably could have used the work, however

brief, he sat out in August along with Gurley and all of the Rams' top skill-position players.

That means Goff will go into

**"There's a bunch of stuff we've been working on this offseason that we're ready to display."**

**Jared Goff**  
Los Angeles Rams quarterback

Monday's game at Oakland having never thrown a pass in a game to Brandon Cooks, the Rams' high-priced new receiver.

The way Goff looks at it, the inactivity means no opponents will know exactly what to expect from Los Angeles' inventive coach and talented group of playmakers.

"Very excited to get some truly competitive action with our offense," Goff said. "It'll be really cool. The defense only played a little bit (in the preseason) too, and I know they're excited as well."

## Interest: Plenty to talk about as season gets underway

FROM BACK PAGE

### Rules changes

The preseason has been dominated, even overridden, by discussion of, and doubts about, the "helmet rule." Basically, any player on offense or defense lowering his head and making contact with any part of the helmet is subject to a 15-yard penalty, a fine, and even an ejection. It's a player safety adjustment for which "the goal long term is to make the game safer and take out some of these hits that should not be part of the game," says New York Giants owner John Mara, a member of the competition committee that recommends rules changes to the owners.

The concerns on many levels focus on players adjusting to the tackling requirements and officials mastering such calls at full speed.

Gene Steratore, who recently retired as an NFL referee, expects the critical tempet to die down quickly.

"Players will adjust because they are that good," says Steratore, now a TV analyst after 15 seasons in the league. "Officials will too, because they are that good. There will be a learning curve for all of them, but I think in a fast period of time, a trigger moment will come that will show right before that contact if it is worthy of a flag."

The fix to the phrasing of the catch rule should eliminate the kind of confusion on Jesse James Dez Bryant et al — many found bogus.

"Control. If it looks like a catch and smells like a catch, it's a catch," says Troy Vincent, the NFL chief of football operations. "(TV) had become convoluted. What you should do, what you shouldn't do. It should be clear



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

**San Francisco 49ers outside linebacker Eli Harold, from left, kneels with safety Eric Reid, wide receiver Marquise Goodwin and wide receiver Louis Murphy during the national anthem before a game against the Jacksonville Jaguars last December in Santa Clara, Calif. With the unilateral policy banning players from any on-field protests during the anthem on hold, no one can be sure what's ahead.**

as day. So our job was to simplify and we put it in practical terms."

The other major rule alteration is on kickoffs, where coverage team players no longer can take a running start, and there are regulations on where kick team players can be overall and how they can block.

### National anthem

Anticipation of whether players will demonstrate during the national anthem again this season is high, fueled in part by reactions from President Trump. Players argue that their message about the need for change in communities nationwide has been misconstrued by the president and his followers, including many team owners.

With the unilateral policy banning players from any on-field protests during the anthem on hold as owners and players discuss the issue, no one can be sure

what's ahead.

Everyone can be sure the topic won't disappear.

"Part of the problem is that when you continue the rhetoric that this is controversial or this is somehow a negative thing, people treat it as such," Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins says.

"But we've seen in other leagues when they've decided to amplify the voices of their players to also emphasize the importance of the issues that we're raising, and change the narrative away from the anthem, that not only is it more acceptable, the fan base gets educated on what we're talking about, and we can actually make some movement."

### Rookie QBs

Before we reach 2019, it's a near-certainty that Baker Mayfield, Sam Darnold, Josh Allen, Josh Rosen and Lamar Jackson will get onto the field. Some like

ly will be starters, maybe even stamp themselves as stars.

Only in Baltimore, where Joe Flacco is the incumbent, is the rookie (Jackson) a long shot to become the No. 1 quarterback this season. The others — Cleveland's Mayfield, Buffalo's Allen, the Jets' Darnold and Arizona's Rosen — are with teams considered outsiders in the playoff chase and it makes sense as early as prudent to see if they are the franchise quarterbacks they were drafted to be.

### Coaches

New coaches in charge of the Arizona Cardinals, Tennessee Titans, Detroit Lions, Giants, Chicago Bears and Los Angeles Raiders include four newbies to be in charge: Detroit's Matt Patricia, Chicago's Matt Nagy, Tennessee's Mike Vrabel and Arizona's Steve Wilks. All of them made their marks as proficient coordinators and bring freshness and toughness to their franchises.

Vrabel, of course, has three Super Bowl rings as a player with New England, which surely earns him some respect in the locker room. If he's considered a product of the Bill Belichick coaching tree, though, Vrabel could struggle; few of the Patriots coach's protégés have had much success as a head man in the NFL.

So the same goes for Patricia, although he has far more experience in coaching.

New York's Pat Shurmur had a stint in charge in Cleveland and probably didn't get a fair shake. The Giants desperately needed a culture change after the 2017 debacle.

Oakland also comes off a bad season following a playoff appearance, and the Raiders made the biggest splash by bringing back (and out of the broadcast booth)

Jon Gruden. There's lots of excitement in the Black Hole and throughout Oakland about Gruden, who clearly has stamped his personality on the roster by trading his best player, holdout pass



Gruden

rusher Khalil Mack. "I love the Raider fans, I love Oakland, and that's the primary reason why I'm standing here," he says.

### Pursuing history

Vinatieri is a marvel. The NFL's oldest player at 45, he begins his 23rd NFL season in range to pass Hall of Famer Morten Andersen as the leading scorer. He was dependable for a decade in New England and then a dozen years in Indianapolis.

He needs seven field goals to pass Andersen (365) for the most field goals. Andersen scored 2,544 points in a league-record 382 games and Vinatieri needs 58 points to break the record.

"It's one of those things that I haven't really thought too much about," he says. "I'm still just trying to help my team win games and keep on putting chapters in this book, and if that happens, fantastic."



Vinatieri



# GAMEDAY

WEEK 1

TELEVIEWED GAMES



Jacksonville Jaguars (0-0)  
at New York Giants (0-0)

AFN-Atlantic  
7 p.m. Sunday CET  
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Tied 3-3.

**Last meeting:** Giants beat Jaguars 25-24, Nov. 30, 2014.

**Notes:** Giants coach Pat Shurmur makes head coaching debut. ... Jaguars RB LeSean Randle ranked second among rookies with 1,040 rushing yards last season. ... Giants rookie RB Saquon Barkley was selected No. 2 overall in the 2018 NFL Draft. ... Jaguars have won 2 of past 3 against Giants.



Houston Texans (0-0)  
at New England Patriots (0-0)

AFN-Sports  
7 p.m. Sunday CET  
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Patriots lead 9-1.

**Last meeting:** Patriots beat Texans 36-33, Sept. 24, 2017.

**Notes:** Facing off for fourth straight year in regular season. ... Texans QB Deshaun Watson set franchise rookie records with 19 TD passes and 103 QB rating last season. ... Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski led NFL tight ends with 1,084 receiving yards in 2017. He has three TD catches in four career meetings with Texans.

## Marquee matchup

## Kansas City Chiefs (0-0) at Los Angeles Chargers (0-0)

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT

**SERIES RECORD:** Chiefs lead 60-54-1.  
**LAST MEETING:** Chiefs beat Chargers 30-13, Dec. 16, 2017.

**CHIEFS OFFENSE (2017):** OVERALL (5), RUSH (9), PASS (7).  
**CHIEFS DEFENSE (2017):** OVERALL (28), RUSH (24), PASS (26).

**CHARGERS OFFENSE (2017):** OVERALL (4), RUSH (24), PASS (1).  
**CHARGERS DEFENSE (2017):** OVERALL (29), RUSH (9), PASS (32).

**STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES:** Chiefs have won past eight and coach Andy Reid is 10-3 for his career against the Chargers. ... Anthony Lynn lost both games against the Chiefs last season in his first year as coach of the Chargers. ... Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes completed 22 of 35 passes for 284 yards in his only career start, Dec. 31 at Denver. ... RB Kareem Hunt led NFL with 1,327 rushing yards and ranked first among rookies with 1,782 yards from scrimmage last season. He became the first rookie in NFL history with 100-plus yards from scrimmage in each of his team's first seven games. ... TE

Travis Kelce lead all tight ends with 83 catches and ranked second with 1,038 receiving yards last season. Since 2014, he's the only tight end with 300-plus receptions (307) and is one of three tight ends with 3,000-plus receiving yards and 20-plus TDs over that span. ... WR Sammy Watkins makes his debut with the Chiefs after racking up 593 receiving yards and eight TDs with Rams last season. ... Chargers QB Philip Rivers ranked second in the NFL with 4,515 passing yards and tied for fifth with 28 TD passes in 2017. He has nine career seasons with 4,000-plus passing yards, tied for third-most in NFL history. ... RB Melvin Gordon led team with 1,105 rushing yards in 2017, his first career 1,000-yard season. He had 169 yards from scrimmage and a rushing TD in last meeting. ... WR Keenan Allen ranked third in the NFL in receiving yards (1,393) and fourth in receptions (102) in 2017. He became first player in NFL history with 10-plus catches, 100-plus receiving yards and a receiving TD in three consecutive games last season.

— Associated Press



Dallas Cowboys (0-0)  
at Carolina Panthers (0-0)

AFN-Atlantic  
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET  
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Cowboys lead series 9-4.

**Last meeting:** Panthers beat Cowboys 33-14, Nov. 26, 2015.

**Notes:** Cowboys went 6-2 on road in 2017; Panthers were 6-2 at home. ... Dallas RB Ezekiel Elliott had 1,252 yards from scrimmage in 2017 and nine TDs despite six-game suspension. ... Panthers QB Cam Newton led team in rushing last season with 754 yards. Newton has more TDs rushing (54) than any QB in NFL history.



Chicago Bears (0-0)  
at Green Bay Packers (0-0)

AFN-Sports  
2:15 a.m. Monday CET  
9:15 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Packers lead 95-93-6.

**Last meeting:** Packers beat Bears 23-18, Nov. 12, 2017.

**Notes:** Packers have won last four meetings. ... Packers coach Mike McCarthy is 17-7 in career against Bears. ... Bears QB Mitch Trubisky passes for 2,193 yards and seven TDs in 12 starts last season. ... Packers QB Aaron Rodgers passed for 1,675 yards and 16 TDs in seven starts last season.



Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes

JOHN SLEEZER, KANSAS CITY STAR/STARS

### Also on AFN:

Tennessee Titans (0-0) at Miami Dolphins (0-0), AFN-Sports2, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday JKT

Seattle Seahawks (0-0) at Denver Broncos (0-0), AFN-Sports2, 10:25 p.m. Sunday CET, 5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

### EXPANDED STANDINGS

#### American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Miami	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
New England	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Houston	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Kansas City	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Oakland	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

#### National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	PF	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
Dallas	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Seattle	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
St. Louis	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0

### REST OF THE SCHEDULE

San Francisco at Minnesota  
Pittsburgh at Cleveland  
Cincinnati at Indianapolis  
Tampa Bay at New Orleans  
Buffalo at Baltimore  
Washington at Arizona

N.Y. Jets at Detroit  
L.A. Rams at Oakland

### NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Sept. 13

Sunday, Sept. 16

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay  
Houston at Tennessee  
Indianapolis at Washington  
Minnesota at Green Bay  
Cleveland at New Orleans  
Miami at N.Y. Jets  
Carolina at Atlanta  
L.A. Chargers at Buffalo  
Arizona at L.A. Rams  
Detroit at San Francisco  
Oakland at Denver  
New England at Jacksonville  
N.Y. Giants at Dallas  
Monday, Sept. 17  
Seattle at Chicago

## SPORTS



Feeling upbeat

Gamecocks looking forward to test against No. 3 Bulldogs » **Page 57**

NFL

## Flagging interest

From anthems to rules changes, distractions still dominate talk inside and outside of league



FSTOCKPHOTO/istock.com

The NFL preseason has been dominated by discussion of the league's revamped "helmet rule." Any player on offense or defense lowering his head and making contact with any part of the helmet is now subject to a 15-yard penalty, a fine and even an ejection — raising concerns about how players and officials will adjust to such calls.

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK

**R**ules changes and U.S. anthem demonstrations seem to have people inside and outside the NFL obsessed as the opening kickoff of the season approaches.

Yes, the Super Bowl champion Eagles and Atlanta Falcons will open things on Thursday in Philadelphia. What many people wonder: Will there be any social injustice protests during "The Star-Spangled Banner?" And will players, coaches and officials have a handle on the adjustment to use of the helmet in making a hit.

Not to mention the new kickoff rules and, at last,

**“The goal long term is to make the game safer and take out some of these hits that should not be part of the game.”**

**John Mara**  
New York Giants owner

a catch rule that seems to make sense.

Those are enough issues to grab attention away from Philly's quarterback situation, as well as the progress of the five first-round quarterback draft choices expected to make their debuts sooner or later.

Or from the return from injuries of Aaron Rodgers, J.J. Watt, Richard Sherman, Deshaun Watson,

David Johnson and Odell Beckham Jr., to name a few.

Or Jon Gruden's return to an NFL sideline in Oakland.

Plus, Adam Vinatieri's pursuit of the career points and field goals marks.

What's ahead to Dec. 30?

**SEE INTEREST ON PAGE 62**

**Inside:** Rams' Goff eager to play, unveil offense, Page 62 ■ Panthers, Turner aim to give Newton options, Page 59

**D-II teams open season with big games » High School, Page 53**

